



WHY THE CLIMATE TALKS
WILL FAIL PLANET

AND HOW WE CAN
WIN REAL CHANGE
>>PAGES 10&11

**STARMER'S
DAY OF SHAME
IN THE SUN**

>>Page 6

Socialist Worker

£1 | No 2775 | 6 - 12 October 2021 | socialistworker.co.uk

AS TORIES TARGET PROTESTS

NO MORE POWERS FOR THE KILLER COPS

RESIST PATEL'S CRACKDOWN



**DESPITE A week of rapist
killer cops hitting headlines,
the Tories and Priti Patel
are fixed on handing the
police more powers.**

These laws will further restrict our right to protest, and cops will be able to prevent people from joining in "disruptive"—and effective—protests.

Rather than letting the Tories and their police protectors get away with further repression, resistance from the streets and workplaces is key.

Opposition is crucial to make sure that killer cops are off the streets for good and to defend the right to protest from the Tories.

There should be a clampdown on the sexist and draconian state—not ordinary people.

CAPITALISM

**Pandora opens
the box marked
'secrets of the rich'**

THE PANDORA Papers leak lifts the lid on how the rich hide their cash and spurn laws and regulations.

The initial revelations concentrated on politicians and bosses away from the US and Britain. But theft and corruption are built into capitalism itself—and no more so than in the West.

>>Page 3

TORIES



**Johnson's 'wage
rise' claims are
totally false**

BORIS JOHNSON is trying to pose as the friend of workers with outrageous lies over wages.

He claims pay is going up because of his policies.

Wages are rising in some sectors due to acute labour shortages.

But they certainly aren't going up for most.

>>Page 4

STRATEGY

**Why struggle is
more important
than parliament**

SOCIALISTS INSIDE and outside the Labour Party can agree that strikes and protests matter.

But the difference between them is whether struggle or parliamentary manoeuvre are seen as the foundation of political action.

>>Pages 14&15



THE THINGS THEY SAY

'Shout out to a passer-by, run into a house, knock on a door, wave a bus down or call 999'

Metropolitan police advice if you are approached by a lone police officer

'Women first of all need to be streetwise'

North Yorkshire commissioner Philip Allott gives advice after the sentencing of killer cop Couzens

'Just learn a bit about that legal process'

Commissioner Allot continues to explain how not to be kidnapped and murdered

'I will make something up. Who are they going to believe, me or you?'

Lancashire police officer arresting someone last year. He received a written warning last month

'I don't believe that the prime minister is responsible for what's in the shops'

Liz Truss explains the economy



Big bonuses for bosses in Fraser's family household

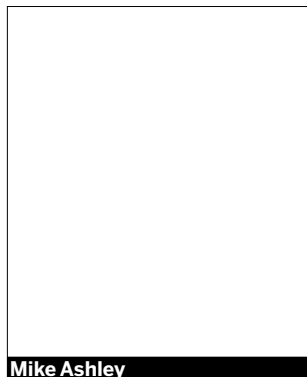
MIKE ASHLEY'S Frasers Group, which owns Sports Direct, rammed a £100 million bonus scheme through its annual general meeting, despite even shareholders revolting.

The money was for its incoming chief executive, Michael Murray—despite having accepted millions of pounds in government support.

Murray, who is the fiancé of Ashley's daughter, is set to receive just over £100 million if Frasers' share price hits £15 for 30 consecutive trading days in the four years from 7 October 2021.

This would come on top of his base salary of £1 million a year.

More than half of the independent shareholders in Frasers, which also



Mike Ashley

owns House of Fraser and Evans Cycles, rejected the group's plans. Frasers sought approval for the bonus at a sparsely attended annual meeting last week.

Only two independent shareholders made it to the 9am event in the group's head office in Shirebrook,

Derbyshire. But just over 55 percent of independent shareholders voted against the group's future remuneration policy, indicating disapproval of the bonus scheme.

Despite the protest vote, the measures were approved thanks to the backing of the group's founder and chief executive, Mike Ashley, who owns almost two-thirds of Frasers' shares.

REMEMBER the inflated claims in June this year when the G7 meeting in Cornwall announced it had reached an agreement on taxing multinational companies properly?

The final agreement is due to be signed off this month at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development meeting.

Nothing to fear for the bosses, as a new analysis from investigative group TaxWatch shows.

Tech giants will almost certainly end up paying less tax under the proposals put forward by the G7 than they are currently liable for under the digital services tax (DST).

Scrapping digital services taxes was a key demand of the United States in the negotiations for a new global tax deal.

In Britain, the current DST rate is 2 percent, and corporation tax is 19 percent. A company would have to have a profit margin of 62 percent in order to pay more in tax under the G7 proposals than under the DST.

Historically tech companies have never achieved these profit margins.

PRIVATE hospitals have cashed in during the pandemic. Ramsay Health Care, which operates 35 hospitals in Britain is one example. In just the first four months of the pandemic, Ramsay made operating profits of £35.2 million, despite falling turnover.

This compares to £14 million in 2018-19. From late March 2020 onwards, Ramsay and other companies agreed to make their facilities available to the NHS in return for what it called "cost recovery... plus an amount relating to infrastructure costs". But the NHS isn't releasing the figures of how much.

Healthy profits

THE TORY welfare chief is drawing up plans to encourage more people who "think they cannot work" to find a job. Theresa Coffey told Tory conference delegates the benefits system must stop "encouraging people to show how they really cannot do any work at all".

This appears to mark a new push towards pushing people who claim disability or sickness payments towards work.

Rodents at heart of the financial system

MR GOXX is dabbling in cryptocurrency, hoping to strike it rich.

He's notable for two reasons. First, he is making money, with his lifetime career performance up about 20 percent, beating many professional traders and funds.

Second, Mr Goxx is a hamster.

The rodent has a "trading office" attached to his regular cage. Every day, when he enters the office, a livestream starts on Twitch, and his Twitter account lets followers know that Mr Goxx has started a trading session.

By running in his "intention wheel"



Mr Goxx

he selects which cryptocurrency he'd like to trade, as the wheel spins through the different options. His office floor has two tunnels nearby—one for buy, one for sell.

Every time he runs through a tunnel, the electronics wired to his office complete a trade according to Mr Goxx's desires.

Killer cops kill twice as many as claimed

A NEW study published in the medical magazine The Lancet has found that US "law enforcement" killed at least 30,800 people from 1980 to 2019.

The official figure was 13,700 deaths. Researchers say 55 percent of deaths from police violence were not reported or were mis-classified in official government databases.

These unreported killings represent more than 17,000 deaths at the hands of US police that were covered up.

The study, conducted at the University of Washington, also

found a sharp increase in police killings.

During the 1980s the mortality rate associated with police violence was 0.25 per 100,000. By the 2010s the rate jumped up to 0.34 per 100,000—an increase of 38.4 percent.

The study noted that the under-counting was highest for non-Hispanic black Americans, at 59.5 percent. This is followed by 56.1 percent for non-Hispanic white people and 50 percent for Hispanic people. Black people in the US are 3.5 times more likely to be killed by police than white Americans.

They party now & we pay later

IN LATE spring this year, some powerful political figures met in a London restaurant with the CEO of Europe's most valuable privately owned start-up.

The dinner was attended by the home secretary Priti Patel, broadcaster Andrew Neil and the former prime minister Tony Blair.

They were with Sebastian Siemiatkowski, the chief executive of buy now, pay later (BNPL) firm Klarna.

The gathering, paid for by Klarna, gave Siemiatkowski the chance to persuade his guests that plans to regulate the BNPL sector must not go too far.

In January, 70 MPs published a letter warning that BNPL firms could produce "the next Wonga".

This was a reference to the now-defunct payday loans firm that was notorious for its punitive interest rates.

So far there has been no new regulation of the sector.



↑12 percent increase in energy bills as price cap rises, expected to drive half a million people into fuel poverty

↑20-40 percent returns reported for energy trading hedge funds on the back of rising gas prices

No questions for Deliveroo

DURING THE recent Labour conference shadow business minister Seema Malhotra addressed a fringe meeting for SME—small and medium enterprises—Labour.

She was joined by Deliveroo's chief lobbyist Giles Derrington. Malhotra praised Deliveroo, which with £900 million revenue is not an SME.

During question time two councillors asked if Deliveroo's model hurt small businesses such as takeaways.

The chair announced the meeting had run out of time.

Get in touch with Socialist Worker

Email reports@socialistworker.co.uk

Web www.socialistworker.co.uk

Facebook "Socialist Worker (Britain)"

Twitter @socialistworker

Newsdesk 020 7840 5656
Circulation 020 7840 5601

Write to Socialist Worker
PO Box 74955
London E16 9EJ

Pandora Papers expose the greed of the system

by SAM ORD

BILLIONAIRES AND politicians who claim there's not enough money for higher pay and public services have been hoarding trillions away in tax havens.

The Pandora Papers are a leaked cache of 11.9 million files from firms that specialise in creating offshore companies. They reveal the names of a portion of the ruling class who avoid vast sums in tax.

The papers include revelations about former British prime minister Tony Blair and Tory party donors.

The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists identified 956 companies specialising in offshore tax havens with ties to 336 “high-level politicians and public officials, including country leaders, cabinet ministers, ambassadors and others.”

It found that “more than two thirds” of the companies identified were “set up in the British Virgin Islands”—a British overseas territory

The investigation and media coverage which is being released throughout the week focused on Eastern European and Middle Eastern political leaders and bosses. Not one US politician is named.

Corruption

But corruption and tax avoidance isn't a distant issue.

Former British prime minister Tony Blair avoided over £300,000 in stamp duty after buying a London office through an offshore company.

The £6.5 million offices were bought by acquiring a British Virgin Islands company controlled by the family of Bahrain's minister for industry, commerce and tourism.

Tina Green, wife of retail tycoon Sir Philip Green, purchased multi-million pound real estate, while BHS, the department store

chain they had owned, headed for collapse. Her identity as the buyer of properties in London was hidden because they were bought through anonymous companies based in the British Virgin Islands.

The purchases included a £15 million apartment in Mayfair and a new home for the Greens' daughter near Buckingham Palace—bought for £10.6 million.

The reaction from the top has been either outright denial or weak promises to investigate and learn from the leak. Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, who married into a billionaire family, said Britain will “look through those to see if there's anything we can learn”.

Boris Johnson claims that the Tory party vets all donations. But what of

the millions of pounds donated by Mohamed Amersi, Lubov Chernukhin and Viktor Fedotov (see column)?

Johnson feigns outrage at tax dodgers such as Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon which uses Luxemburg as a tax haven. But his alleged outrage never results in action.

In 2012 when Google's tax arrangements came to light, boss Eric Schmidt was unashamed. He said the scheme was something to be “very proud of”.

“It's called capitalism,” he said. “We are proudly capitalistic. I'm not confused about this.”

Schmidt is right. Although the present and upcoming leaks will be shocking, this is how capitalism works and what it allows.

Capitalism is a race to accumulate. This system applauds tax avoidance, corruption and dodgy deals.

It is not a distortion of an otherwise rule-bound and transparent system, it is inevitable in a regime of competition and profit.

The thieves exposed this week—and their counterparts in every country—should have their wealth taken away from them.

But really tackling the rip-offs revealed in the Pandora papers point towards overthrowing the system that facilitates them.

What's your story?
Email with your ideas
reports@socialistworker.co.uk

TONY AND Cherie Blair avoided over £300,000 in stamp duty with the help of an offshore company

Dodgers' links to Britain

● **MOHAMED AMERSI**, a Tory party donor who funded Boris Johnson's leadership campaign, was involved in a £161 million payment to an offshore company in 2010.

The company was controlled by Gulnara Karimova, the daughter of Uzbekistan's former president. The payment has been described as a bribe.

Lubov Chernukhin

● **FORMER BANKER, Lubov Chernukhin** has given the Tories £2.1 million since 2012.

The Pandora Papers reveal her extraordinary reliance on tax havens.

Chernukhin and her Oligarch husband are accused of instructing lawyers over a tax authority dispute in France, Switzerland and the British Virgin Islands.

Viktor Fedotov

● **OIL INVESTOR Viktor Fedotov** secretly co-owned a company that was once accused of participating in an enormous corruption scheme.

With the money he made, Fedotov gave huge donations to the Conservative party.

He claims the leak is “based upon flawed stereotypes” and that he “never had any interest in British politics”.

● **THE KING of Jordan, Abdullah al-Hussein** has accumulated property worth £73 million through offshore companies.

The secret property includes 15 homes in places such as Miami in the US, and London and Ascot in Britain.

Protesters in Jordan have previously been arrested for asking how much land al-Hussein owns.

Socialist Worker

For daily updates and the stories that matter socialistworker.co.uk



- Download WhatsApp to your phone
- Save 07377 632 826 as Socialist Worker WhatsApp
- Send 'start' to the number

The US's very own haven

THE US state of South Dakota matches Switzerland, Panama and Luxemburg as a tax haven for the super wealthy.

Seeking to shelter hoards of wealth, layers of the ruling class have funnelled £273 billion into the state.

South Dakota has some incredibly powerful legal protections from taxes, creditors and investigations.

These make it perfect for the wealthy to hide their assets there.

The growing trust industry in South Dakota holds approximately

£273 billion in assets, up from £55 billion in 2011. This is due to the state government's agenda of attracting money by protecting assets from governments and taxes.

Analysis of the data identifies 28 trusts in the US tied to individuals or companies who have been accused of financial misconduct.

When he became US president, Joe Biden said, he would “lead efforts internationally to bring transparency to the global financial system.” He hasn't even done that at home.

Joe Biden



Johnson's 'wage rise' claims are false

by CHARLIE KIMBER

BORIS JOHNSON is trying to pose as the friend of workers with outrageous lies over wages.

He is saying that fuel shortages, supermarket empty shelves and soaring gas prices are all symptoms of a period of post-Brexit adjustment. He claims to be dumping the “old failed model of low wages, low skills supported by uncontrolled immigration”.

The result, Johnson blusters, is that wages are already going up. He adds, “Never mind life expectancy, never mind cancer outcomes—look at wage growth”.

Wages are rising in some sectors—the lorry industry is one example—due to acute shortages. But not overall.

Millions of workers in the public sector face a wage freeze imposed by the same Tories who are supposed to be their allies.

Others face demands from bullying bosses for pay cuts through “fire and rehire”. That’s all based on the erosion of trade union rights, driven by Tory policy.

Inflation

And Johnson opposes the £15 an hour minimum wage that would help the lowest paid. But then so does Keir Starmer.

According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS), regular pay rose by 6.8 percent in the year to May-July 2021—or 4.5 percent once inflation is taken into account.

Technically this is the highest real wage growth in 20 years. But the ONS has warned it is “clearly misleading”.

Wages dipped dramatically due to Covid-19 last Spring and recovered this Spring, so was recorded as a bigger “rise” than it actually is.

The pandemic also saw the elimination of lots of low-wage jobs in hospitality. Fewer were wiped out in higher paid sectors and at supervisor

BACK STORY

Boris Johnson claims that wages are growing

● The reality is millions in the public sector are facing a wage freeze. Others are being hit with fire and rehire from bosses

● He also opposes the £15 an hour minimum wage and is seeing through £20 a week Universal Credit cuts

● Opposition needs to build in workplaces and on the streets

and management levels. The average wage therefore rises.

Meanwhile prices are rising fast. The latest inflation figures showed the RPI measure at 4.8 percent. That means workers need a 5 percent rise just to stand still.

Even the government’s preferred CPI measure shows a 3 percent rise, with much more to come.

The reality is that tens of millions of workers remain on low pay. Around 40 percent of Universal Credit claimants are in work, and they are seeing further attacks with the removal of the £20 a week uplift.

From next April a national insurance rise will take another 1.25 percent of wages from nearly all workers.

And the government obscures its squeeze on workers to boost profits with racism.

Johnson says he is not going “to just pull the big lever marked by uncontrolled immigration, and allow in huge numbers of people to do work”. He says that lowers wages.

A mass of studies shows that migration has almost no effect on wages. Migrants drive up demand for labour because they spend as well as produce.

Instead of Tory lies there needs to be a united struggle against bosses and the government for big pay rises for all.

PRIME MINISTER Boris Johnson is plunging people into poverty, not raising their wages

Thousands join protest at Tory party conference in Manchester

CHANTS ECHOED across

Manchester last Sunday as people took to the streets to protest at the Tory party conference.

The protest, organised by the People’s Assembly Against Austerity, attracted around 5,000 anti-racists, pro-Palestinians and trade unionists.

Hannah is an activist with Drive2Survive, a Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) campaign set up to stop the Tories’ repressive Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts (PCSC) Bill.

She told Socialist Worker, “I’ve been a Traveller my whole life, and I’ve suffered prejudice from many directions.

“When studying to become a mental health nurse, I was living on the roadside. If this PCSC bill had already passed, I wouldn’t have been able to return home and my husband and I would be arrested.”

She decided to take her fight directly to the Tories, as “they target us for our free thinking”.

“We live an alternative lifestyle that doesn’t fit their ideology,” she added. “They want to pick us

off, then move onto others.”

Celia is an NHS activist. She told Socialist Worker, “If we don’t act soon we won’t have an NHS.”

She believes that the privatisation of previously publicly owned services opened the door for attacks on our NHS.

“The Tories want to hand NHS contracts to their friends. They want to mirror the US’ healthcare system,” she added. “To save our NHS we need to get rid of the Tories.”

The protest marched from Whitworth Park to Castlefield

Basin, where speakers addressed the crowd.

Labour MP Richard Burgon told the crowd, “The Tories have made the working class pay the price for a crisis they didn’t cause.

“Whatever legislation they pass, we will continue to fight back.”

Soph is a student in Manchester, protesting to highlight the prejudice trans and non-binary people face.

She told Socialist Worker, “So often the trans community is forgotten and violence against them has grown.

“We need more protests, but also more outreach to inform ordinary people about our fight and the attacks on their rights.”

The Tories with an 80 seat majority and little resistance in parliament will continue to force through repressive measures, increase racism and target working class people.

Socialists must continue to build protests and movements that challenge Tory rule. The next major target is the protests around the Cop26 climate talks on Saturday 6 November.

Protesters last Sunday united against the Tories

PICTURE: MANCHESTER SWP

Rulers telling green lies in the run up to COP26

BORIS JOHNSON is making grand climate promises in the lead up to Cop26.

Johnson is expected to announce this week that by 2035 all of Britain’s electricity will come from renewable energy sources.

But this will come with a catch. Last Friday, the government announced plans to expand nuclear power capabilities by investing in nuclear fusion to replace the burning of fossil fuels.

Nuclear fusion has been described as much safer to produce than nuclear fission. But it still produces the same dangerous by-products.

The technology has also never been produced on any significant scale.

Johnson also called for all of humanity to “grow up” ahead of the conference in November.

This comes after the prime minister’s invitation to India, China and the US to discuss trade and the climate was reportedly turned down.

India and China have so far not published any new plans to cut down on emissions. Both are currently scrambling to buy up as much coal as possible to make up for shortages.

As of last Friday most power plants in India had only four days’

worth of coal. This has led the country to buy coal amounting to £11 trillion from Australia.

But India and China aren’t the only countries turning to coal to make up for plummeting gas reserves.

Europe has also been looking to buy more coal to meet power demands, with Russia under increased pressure to produce more.

The burning of more coal—the dirtiest and most polluting of all fossil fuels—will be disastrous for the planet.

Commitments

Meanwhile US president Joe Biden is making big commitments to protect the planet. Biden announced a £2.5 trillion federal budget increase to deal with extreme weather and cut emissions.

Home secretary Priti Patel is going beyond the measures originally put forward in the protest-smashing police bill.

New court orders will be introduced to ban “eco-activists” from travelling around the country to join “disruptive” protests. The same measures will be used against other activists the authorities regard as troublemakers.

A new law is to be introduced making it a criminal offence to interfere with national infrastructure including roads, airports—and printing presses.

It’s a specific measure to

Disabled People Against Cuts protest in London last week against the £20 a week cut to Universal Credit

‘Tax the rich, cancel the cut’

ANGRY PROTESTERS blocked traffic outside Downing Street last Thursday evening to oppose Tory welfare cuts.

Disabled People Against Cuts (Dpac) organised the protest as the Tories prepare to slash the £20 uplift to the Universal Credit benefit.

They chanted, “Tax the rich, cancel the cut—£20 for all.”

Dpac activist Peter told Socialist Worker, “Working class people and disabled people are being made to pay for the Tories’ pandemic mess up.”

Peter has recently been in hospital and is suffering from ill-health. “The doctors have asked me to stick to a diet that I won’t be able to afford,” he said.

“I already buy the cheapest stuff from the cheapest places—Aldi and Lidl.”

Peter says there’s a real possibility that he’ll plunge himself into debt after the £20

cut. “I have to choose between making my health worse or going into debt,” he explained.

The government increased Universal Credit by £20 per week at the start of the pandemic. But the Tories excluded more than two million disabled people on legacy benefits from the uplift.

Cathy, a Dpac activist, told Socialist Worker, “This is a protest against austerity. It impacts many working class people, particularly those who are disabled.

“Some disabled people seeking housing are living in bed and breakfast accommodation. Universal Credit currently doesn’t pay enough for those people to cover rent.”

Cathy believes protests are important so “Tories don’t ignore our demands”.

But she added this “is a problem with the Labour” too since Keir Starmer shifted the party to the right.

Socialist Worker
WHAT WE THINK

DON’T LINE UP WITH THOSE WHO WILL CRUSH PROTEST

LED BY home secretary Priti Patel, the Tories want to prevent any effective form of protest that stands in the way of their racist, profit-driven leadership.

They know there is a potential at some point for mass opposition to their rule. Their solution is more repression in advance.

It’s been an appalling week for the police with shattering revelations about how they allowed a rapist and murderer to find comfort in their ranks. Yet the Tories’ reaction is to hand the police more powers.

Home secretary Priti Patel is going beyond the measures originally put forward in the protest-smashing police bill.

New court orders will be introduced to ban “eco-activists” from travelling around the country to join “disruptive” protests. The same measures will be used against other activists the authorities regard as troublemakers.

A new law is to be introduced making it a criminal offence to interfere with national infrastructure including roads, airports—and printing presses.

It’s a specific measure to

defend the media that spout pro-system propaganda.

When Extinction Rebellion temporarily halted pro-Tory press sites, it raised the subversive idea of a direct challenge to who owns and controls the media. The Tories want that crushed.

The right to protest is fundamental.

Protest at its best is often disruptive, inconvenient for some, blocks traffic and upsets the rhythm of ordinary life. It has to be defended.

If that’s taken away, then only polite promenades through empty streets would be allowed.

Workers’ picketing stops traffic, causes disruption and angers some of its targets. It has to be defended. Catastrophic

“Only polite promenades through empty streets allowed”

BLAME THE BUST SYSTEM

NOBODY WANTS to take the blame for fuel shortages, empty shelves and rising prices.

Bosses want the Tories to fix it by allowing them to recruit more migrant workers.

The Tories point the finger straight back at them, blaming them for failing to prepare for increased demand for goods.

Let the market solve its own problems, say Boris Johnson and his new foreign secretary, Liz Truss. “In the end, those businesses, those industries, are the best

solvers of their own supply chain issues,” said Johnson.

“Government can’t step in and fix every bit of the supply chain.”

The way much of the media reports the crisis won’t help you get to the bottom of what’s responsible.

Sometimes it’s presented almost as if it’s a natural disaster, or a patch of stormy weather—an unhappy collision of forces beyond anyone’s control.

Everybody accuses each other of failing to plan for crises.

But nobody wants to suggest that there’s anything wrong

fundamentally with how society is organised.

When planning is left open to the market, decisions are made based on what produces quick profits—not what society and ordinary people need.

A democratically planned system, where profit isn’t the driving force, wouldn’t face these crises.

But neither the Tories nor the bosses want to talk about that.

That would mean admitting that privatisation, marketisation—and the whole system itself—doesn’t work.





ANALYSIS

ALEX CALLINICOS



Defend David Miller and academic freedom

IN A serious attack on academic freedom, Bristol University has sacked one of its professors of sociology, David Miller.

Miller, a long-standing left wing activist, works on how the powerful manipulate the mass media. He is also an anti-Zionist, who opposes Israel's oppression of Palestinians.

As a result of arguments with pro-Israel students, Miller was accused of antisemitism. Bristol University's statement is vague about the reasons for Miller's dismissal.

It waffles about the university's "duty of care to all students and the wider university community". But it does admit that a senior lawyer who investigated the case found that Miller was not guilty of "unlawful speech".

According to Miller himself, the finding more specifically cleared him of antisemitism. Why then was he sacked? I guess that the university wanted to get of Miller, probably as a result of government pressure. When it couldn't pin antisemitism on him, it used the hurt his remarks may have caused some students to dismiss him. This manoeuvre is typical of the senior management of contemporary universities, who operate like the bosses of business's.

The statement affirms Bristol's commitment to academic freedom but this is clearly a lie. Freedom of speech is impossible if you punish people for offending others.

Galileo Galilei offended the Pope and his cardinals when he said the Earth went around the sun, but this doesn't mean the Inquisition was justified in forcing him to recant.

Defending Miller doesn't mean one has to agree with everything he says. He has accused Bristol university of caving into "pressure from the Israel lobby," which "lobbies for a hostile foreign state".

But in what sense is Israel hostile to the British state? Was it hostile, for example, when it attacked Egypt in 1956, in cahoots with Britain and France, who wanted a pretext to regain control of the Suez Canal?

This relates to a larger point. Yes, there is an Israel lobby in Britain, just as there is in most Western states. But the alignment between these states and Israel isn't a product of the lobby's influence, but a convergence of interests between them.

The Suez conspiracy came less than ten years after the Zionist movement waged an armed struggle against Britain, the colonial power in Palestine. Western imperialism supports Israel because it helps keep the Middle East under the West's thumb.

Dismissed

Noam Chomsky has long dismissed the influence of the Israel lobby saying, "I don't think it competes with US geopolitical planning."

"If these interests ever come into conflict, the geopolitical planners win. We see that on issue after issue."

Similarly, supporters of Israel have been very active in making false accusations of antisemitism against the anti-Zionist left—above all, Jeremy Corbyn. But this campaign was hugely amplified by the likes of the Daily Mail, which supported the fascist Blackshirts' antisemitic marches in the 1930s.

For the ruling class, branding large swathes of the left as antisemitic is useful for reasons that have nothing to do with Israel. But disagreeing with Miller about the significance of the Israel lobby is far less important than the need for solidarity with him now.

It's a basic liberal precept that toleration matters precisely when one doesn't agree with the views under attack. But we live at a time when liberal institutions such as universities don't respect their principles.

Miller is a casualty in the "culture war" that Boris Johnson is determined to wage. His target isn't just the anti-racist movement and the anti-imperialist left, but scholars who have been exposing the crimes against humanity committed by the British ruling class.

This war will probably escalate. Johnson's ridiculous appointment of Nadine Dorries as culture secretary is a warning. And Labour under Keir Starmer, desperate to win back working-class voters it patronises as reactionary, will be no constraint. This is why it is so vital to defend Miller.

If he goes down, venal, cowardly university managements everywhere will give way to government pressure to silence critical scholars and activists.

KEIR STARMER delivers his speech at Labour Party conference last week

The Sun rises on Starmer's appeal to media and bosses

by NICK CLARK

LABOUR LEADER Keir Starmer wants to rub the left's face in its defeat after his victories at the party's conference last week.

Starmer made a point of insulting the left—and working class people—by writing a column for the Sun newspaper on Sunday.

Party members and some trade union officials demand Labour MPs don't write for the Sun because it lied about the Hillsborough disaster victims.

The Sun falsely blamed Liverpool supporters for the crush at Hillsborough stadium in 1989, which killed 97 people.

The paper also pushes racism and bigotry against Muslims, migrants, women, trans people, anti-racists, trade unionists and others.

Banned

It is widely boycotted in Liverpool, and delegates at last week's Labour conference called for it to be banned from the venue.

But right wing Labour MPs insist on writing for the Sun almost as a point of principle.

They say it makes Labour electable by appealing to right wing voters.

And they celebrate the Sun's support for Tony Blair.

Starmer's choice to write for the Sun was a deliberate insult to the left—and a betrayal of his leadership

campaign promise to refuse interviews. It was also an attempt to appease right wing Labour MPs.

They are frustrated that his lurch to the right has not made Labour more popular than the Tories in opinion polls.

Many say the answer is to intensify the party's war on its left wing activists—and adopt an even more right wing leader.

It comes after Starmer used his Labour conference speech to prove to the media, the bosses and Labour MPs that they should let him remain as leader.

After giving MPs more power in leadership elections, he said, "It has been so important to get our own house in order this week and we have done that."

Lies spread by The Sun

He rejected the radical promises of spending on new public services or state ownership that bosses and the media had branded unrealistic.

Most symbolically of all, he praised Tony Blair's government—to huge cheers and a standing ovation from right wing members in the room.

Starmer also made a point of demonstrating his support for the cops, the military and nationalism.

He tried to mimic Tory home secretary Priti Patel by promising tougher sentences for criminals and a crackdown on "anti-social behaviour."

And while he had plenty to offer bosses and "British business" he had nothing but platitudes for working class people.

A Labour spokesperson described the speech as to where Starmer "set out what he stands for."

His speech—and his Sun newspaper article—show that his Labour Party is in the pockets of business and Rupert Murdoch's media empire.

Bakers' union splits from Labour

THE BFAWU union of bakers and food workers voted last week to disaffiliate from the Labour Party after more than a century.

The union agreed to split after Labour threatened its president, Ian Hodson with expulsion for supposedly being associated with a banned left wing group.

Labour leader Keir Starmer also refused to back a £15 minimum wage—a

key demand of the union, which organises fast food workers.

The union slammed Starmer's war on the left and the party's charge to the right under his leadership.

Breaking from Labour doesn't mean being defeated—it means freeing yourself to build struggles, strikes and movements without being stifled by Starmer's party.

Read a longer version online at bit.ly/BfawuSW

BFAWU leader, Ian Hodson



Huge march for abortion rights defies Texas law

An attack on a woman's right to choose has provoked a wave of anger across the US, reports **Sophie Squire**

UP TO 120,000 pro-choice protesters joined 650 marches across all 50 states in the United States last Saturday.

A law banning abortion after six weeks in the state of Texas has sparked rage.

The bill will criminalise abortion providers and health workers who perform abortions and even those who help women to reach abortion clinics.

Already two doctors have appeared in court for performing an abortion after the six week cut off point.

The protests were largely organised by Women's March, the group that mobilised millions of people after Donald Trump's inauguration as US president in 2017.

Protests weren't as big as those in 2017, but they were widespread.

Kayla Selsi, who joined the protest in Los Angeles said, "Women's rights are being taken away, and it's highly affecting women of a lower class.

"I feel safer in California as a woman, but Texas is obviously going in one direction and it scares me that other states could go the same way."

Moment

Alexis McGill, president of reproductive rights organisation and sexual healthcare provider Planned Parenthood, told the crowd in Washington DC, "No matter where you live, no matter where you are, this moment is dark—it is dark—but that's why we're here."

Popular slogans on the demonstrations included "bans off our bodies" and "You can no longer tell us what to do with our bodies."

In London a couple of hundred protesters joined a solidarity march from Trafalgar Square to the US embassy.

Protester Sarah pointed to the hypocrisy of anti-choice politicians in the US.

"The right very clearly has no interest in helping the thousands of migrant children who are struggling at the US border at the

BACK STORY

A restrictive Texas law banning most abortions went into effect on 1 September.

● The state legislation effectively bans abortions after six weeks of pregnancy

● Campaigners say this is before many women even know they're pregnant

● The new law is the most restrictive in the US

● Other states are moving to introduce similar laws and to undermine the 1973 Roe v Wade ruling that gives some rights across the country

moment." Eliza said that it was essential to stand in solidarity with women across the world.

She pointed out that "once one group of women get their rights taken away, everyone's rights can get taken away."

Eliza also added that Britain still has a long way to go for women to have full access to abortion on demand and without harassment.

As the march made its way to the US embassy in south London, activists chanted, "Not the church, not the state, women will decide their fate" and "My body my choice".

Class

Ashleigh also said there is an important class element to abortion rights.

"The Tories' cuts to Universal Credit, and increase to national insurance contributions will make life a lot harder for women.

"Fighting for abortion rights has never been so important," she said.

The march was joined by trade unionists from Unison, NEU and UCU, who brought their banners.

There were also protests in Cardiff and Edinburgh.

More protests are vital in the US, Britain and around the world to beat back attacks on abortion rights.

THOUSANDS MARCHED in Los Angeles to demand safe, legal abortions

FRANCE

National strike as far right threat grows

WORKERS IN France launched a day of strikes and mass demonstrations on Tuesday of this week.

Called by five trade union federations, the strike raises demands for higher pay, better conditions and for the government to abandon planned attacks on pensions and unemployment benefits.

It's welcome to see resistance and it could be a launchpad to build on a number of important

strikes in recent months.

But sections of the French left point out that it is a "day without a tomorrow".

There's no serious strategy to defeat president Emmanuel Macron's assaults on workers, migrants and the right to protest and speak out.

Workers' struggle is urgently needed as another far right candidate, Eric Zemmour, is neck and neck with fascist Marine Le Pen in polls for next

year's presidential election.

Le Pen calls for a referendum on identity, citizenship and the control of immigration. Zemmour has called for a ban on first names such as Mohammed and said he supports the return of 2 million migrants to their countries of origin.

Together, Le Pen and Zemmour poll more than any other candidate.

Charlie Kimber

GREECE

Anti-fascists resist Nazi Golden Dawn attack

ANTI-NAZIS IN Greece saw off an attempt by the fascist Golden Dawn to smash up a rally in Athens on Sunday.

Between 15 and 20 Golden Dawn thugs attacked members of the anti-Nazi Keerfa organisation as they prepared for a rally in a city square.

The event was called to mark a year since leaders of Golden Dawn were convicted of forming and running a political organisation.

The thugs, wearing helmets and armed with batons, injured

four anti-fascists, smashed up tables and damaged a sound system as police stayed clear.

But people from the neighbourhood chased them off, and the rally went ahead.

A statement from Keerfa said Golden Dawn is trying to rebuild itself by establishing new street fighting gangs in city neighbourhoods.

It said Greece's Tory government and the cops are ignoring Nazi attacks.

Nick Clark

Fascist Golden Dawn rally in 2019

Everard case shows deep sexism in the cops

Sarah Everard's murderer was known—and ignored—as a danger to women, reports Isabel Ringrose

WAYNE COUZENS, the police officer who kidnapped, raped and murdered Sarah Everard in March was handed a whole-life sentence for his crimes last Thursday.

Couzens used his police warrant card to lure Everard off the street before strangling her with his police belt and burning her body 80 miles away in Kent.

Video footage shows Couzens handcuffing Everard and putting her in his car. Hours before, he had been on shift as an armed officer outside the US embassy in London.

What particularly shocked the court was Couzens' abuse of his power. But this isn't an isolated event.

Met Commissioner Cressida Dick said of her officers, "Sadly on occasion, I have a bad 'un."

Yet the details of the case show the scandal is about much more than the bad behaviour of one officer.

Danger

Evidence revealed Couzens' colleagues knew him to be a sexual offender and a potential danger to women.

Couzens' colleagues at the Civil Nuclear Constabulary nicknamed him "the rapist" before he joined the Met.

He was identified as the suspect in an indecent exposure case six years ago. Kent police received a report in June 2015 that a man had been seen driving naked from the waist down.

It is thought there may have been enough information in the Kent police system to identify the man as Couzens at the time.

Yet police only made the link and referred the allegations to their pet watchdog the IOPC in May 2021, two months after Couzens murdered Everard.

And three days before he abducted Sarah Everard, Couzens exposed himself at a McDonald's drive-thru restaurant.

Staff reported the incident to police, who identified his car via

BACK STORY

Wayne Couzens abducted and murdered Sarah Everard in March

- The case lifted the lid on sexism in the police and in society

- Hundreds of people joined a vigil for Sarah in south London, near where she was abducted

- Many were women who have been made to feel unsafe on the streets—and were angry at cops for failing to protect them

- Cops responded by attacking the vigil and breaking it up

CCTV. He was not arrested, leaving him free to kidnap, rape and murder.

It was also an open secret that Couzens had a taste for extreme pornography.

Sir Tom Winsor, the Chief Inspector of Constabulary, on Thursday confirmed that Couzens was known as "the rapist" by other officers.

Winsor admitted that Couzens had "a reputation in terms of drug abuse, extreme pornography and other offences of this kind."

Misconduct

Twelve notices have now been served for allegations of misconduct during police investigations against Couzens prior to Everard's murder.

Even after Couzen's guilty plea, some of his colleagues spoke supportively in court, in a bid to have his sentence reduced.

One officer also allegedly shared an inappropriate image relating to the killing with others over social media, before working at the scene of the search for Everard.

Cressida Dick and, the Tories, and the rest of the police would like to use Couzen's sentencing to draw a line under the scandal.

But the case has shone a light on the institutional sexism that made Couzens feel at home—and the anger isn't going away.

ANGER AT the vigil for Sarah Everard in March

Insitutional sexism is built into the very nature of what the police are for

EVEN SOME former top cops are having to admit they have a problem.

Lib Dem Lord Brian Paddick—a former deputy commissioner in the Met—spoke of "widespread sexism within the force."

Between 2019 and 2020, 160 officers in the Met were accused of sexual assault, harassment and other forms of misconduct.

Only four have been "suspended or restricted" as a result.

In the four years to 2020, more than half of Met officers found guilty of sexual misconduct kept their jobs.

Across Britain women have been killed by at least 15 serving or former police officers since 2009—and the true figure is likely to be much higher.

The majority were killed by their partners.

We know the police are institutionally sexist, and an analysis of the system we live under and the rôle cops play within it explains why.

The job of the police is to reinforce the power structures of the state.

That state exists for the rich to oppress the poor under a system reliant on oppression.

As the police exist to uphold this system, they reflect the ideas that flow from it. That's why the police attracts some of the worst sexists, racists and bullies to its ranks.

They relish the power and coercive methods it grants them, and thrive among their bigoted pals.

You won't last long as a cop if you don't fit in with them.

"When I was in the police I was told it was okay to be a woman, or to be gay, or to be black, provided you behaved like a straight white man," said Paddick.

Harass

It's true not all cops rape and murder. But from spy cops who had relationships with their targets, to officers who harass assault victims, sexism in the police is rife.

And they are more likely to get away with it because they are part of that institution.

A witness assumed Everard "must have done something

wrong" when they saw her approached by Couzens. This says something about how we're told to see the police, and the power they have.

And it's not just individual acts from officers that make the police sexist.

The fact their crimes are defended and ignored plays a rôle.

Dick's denials of behaviour within her own force shows how the issue also comes from the top, and it further encourages sexism.

Couzens' nickname "the rapist" shows that sexist attitudes were not just put up with, but accepted and even deemed funny.

Sexism isn't down to just "one bad apple" who lets down an otherwise noble profession.

The police don't protect us. They're given power over us that they use and abuse.

And most of the time they're allowed to get away with it.

 **On other pages...**
Black History Month must not be tamed >>Page 16

Speak up for our #MeToo victories

SINGER AND Music producer R Kelly's conviction on all nine counts of racketeering and sex trafficking charges should definitely be hailed as a victory for the #MeToo movement.

This is especially true considering this is the first major trial in the aftermath of #MeToo where most of the victims have been black women.

Not only does this show that more women are speaking out, but they are finally being heard by authorities because of their collective strength.

However, women had been making accusations against Kelly for at least 20 years prior to the trial.

We should really question how music and film industries, alongside judicial systems, are complicit in abuse and controlling how it is dealt with.

This is another step in the struggle to bring down a system that has enabled abusers.

They're protected in their positions of power to exploit, harass and assault young women with little to no consequences.

And we must put this case in context against the thousands of cases of domestic abuse, rape and violence that go unheard and never make it to court.

It's a call for us all to fight for the voices that are not heard or deemed too quiet to make a difference.

Elisa Rowland
East London



ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

Fuel crisis chaos is another consequence of capitalism

AS USUAL, crises created by capitalism hurt those who are most vulnerable in society. This is highlighted at the moment by the gas and fuel crisis in Britain.

Some environmentalists applaud this crisis for making people think about the role of cars in society.

But we must remember that, for the time being, cars are essential to some workers if they wish to earn a living.

Many workers are on poor wages, living paycheck to paycheck, where missing one day could be detrimental.

This is especially true for essential workers who only a year ago were applauded as heroes but have yet again been left out to dry by the Tory government.

However, this need not be the case if we reconsider the role of transport in our society.

In Liverpool a day ticket for the bus can cost upwards of £4.50 and services are unreliable at best.

How can workers be expected to pay and rely on such a poor service?

More cars exist on this planet than human beings.

This in part is because they are one of the only reliable ways for workers to get to work, the shops and to see loved ones.

We could have publicly-run transport services that weren't at the whim of capitalists and the market.

There would be transport that is reliable and environmentally

friendly, where fuel crises never need to happen.

And the stockpiling of fuel isn't simply down to individuals being irrational. It is part of a system of insecurity.

Scapegoating working people isn't the answer to another crisis of capitalism.

It is a fundamental distrust in the market and the government that aided the stockpiling of fuel.

Far from irrational, it is extremely rational to have no trust in the system or its leaders.

It is our job to take this distrust to its natural conclusion by creating a system built on need, not greed.

Sky Golding
Liverpool.

Just a thought...

Woe for poor, bonuses for the rich

MANY ARE facing a "Winter of Woe", from a 30 percent rise in fuel prices to the £20 cut to Universal Credit.

And in April there's the 10 percent increase in National Insurance contributions plus the ending of the "triple lock" on state pensions.

Meanwhile the Financial Times reports, "Partners at the professional services giant, Deloitte, are to receive an average individual payout of £1 million—the highest in a decade."

The payment has been approved after the Big Four firm's profits rebounded from a pandemic slump.

Amanda Squire
East London

Keep occupying the M25

IT'S GREAT to see Insulate Britain occupying the M25 at Cobham, Surrey.

It is where Gerrard Winstanley and the Diggers occupied land in 1649.

They said the Earth was a "common treasury". Exactly.

Chris Fuller
York

Vaccines discriminate for the West

FROM 4 October Britain's rules around people entering the country will change.

Only people vaccinated in certain places, such as Britain, Europe and the US, will be counted as vaccinated.

This excludes others who are vaccinated with the exact same vaccines as we have, for instance AstraZeneca or Pfizer.

How shockingly discriminatory is this?

Especially when Big Pharma in Britain and the US has made so much money selling vaccines all over the world.

And governments continue to block patent waivers—The Tories in particular—that would allow more vaccines to be made worldwide.

Joanna Redman
Glasgow

Stop the burn campaign

STOP THE North London Incinerator demonstration on Saturday 25 September saw around 200 march against plans to expand the Edmonton incinerator in north London.

Local residents, environmental and anti-racist activists took over the North Circular Road, despite police attempts to stop them.

Speakers highlighted the catastrophic climate and health impacts of waste incineration that will impact the poorest disproportionately, especially black people.

Anger was vented at the "publicly" controlled

North London Waste Authority, run by a majority of Labour councils.

It is shamefully, pushing forward with the expansion plans.

Banners from Black Lives Matter, Extinction Rebellion, Campaign Against Climate Change Trade Union Group, Day Mer and Stand Up to Racism were present.

Protests have already forced some corporate interests to pull out of the project, encouraging protesters to build even bigger mobilisations in the future.

Raj Perera
Hatfield

The Norwegian left is winning changes

SOCIALIST Worker shouldn't ignore the success of the Red Party in Norway.

The party has increased its representation in the Storting—the Norwegian parliament—by seven seats. It's also stated clearly in its election campaign that bigger changes than what can be won by MPs must be the people's aim.

It has already prevented privatisations of childcare in the capital Oslo and helped to prevent increases in charges in day care elsewhere.

Like Die Linke in Germany, the Red Party is fighting for more

immigrant rights and system change not climate change.

However the Labour Party, whose leader is a businessman, obtained the largest percentage of votes despite losing a seat. It is already compromising on climate change, allowing the oil and gas industries to continue limited production until 2030.

It is likely to form a coalition with the Socialist Left Party which is fighting climate change. And the Centre Party, which represents farmers opposed to fighting climate change.

The Red Party is unlikely to be invited, being

opponents of Nato and climate change. It is also regarded as a Marxist party.

Jim Hutchinson
Tyneside

WHY COP WILL FAIL PLANET

The COP conference being held in Glasgow next month comes at a crucial juncture in the fight against climate chaos. Faced with overwhelming evidence that the planet is heating rapidly, only the most radical measures stand a chance of averting disaster. But, says **Sophie Squire**, the history of COP should prepare us for yet another failure

THE FIRST ever Cop climate conference in 1995 was already organised too late. Rising greenhouse emissions have been a concern for scientists since the 1970s, but it took until the 1990s for world leaders to decide that they should take action.

To finally start to combat the issue, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was established in 1994.

The term Cop refers to the Convention of Parties whose function is to carry out and monitor the UNFCCC. The summit was created to gather member states signed up to the UNFCCC and specially selected NGOs and scientists. In 2021, 197 states are signed up to attend Cop26.

Berlin, Germany was the stage for the first ever summit in 1995. On its first outing, Cop1 established some inescapable truths about the nature of the climate crisis. It found that the “global nature of

climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response.”

Scientists had made clear going into Cop1 that countries should reduce their greenhouse emissions to 1990 levels by 2000.

But making any attempt to reach this target was dismissed by developed countries as being far too limiting for their economic growth.

Instead of aiming to reduce emissions by 2000, this was the date when world leaders decided it would be good to begin tackling climate change.

On the last day of the summit, the Berlin Mandate was hurriedly established as a compromise.

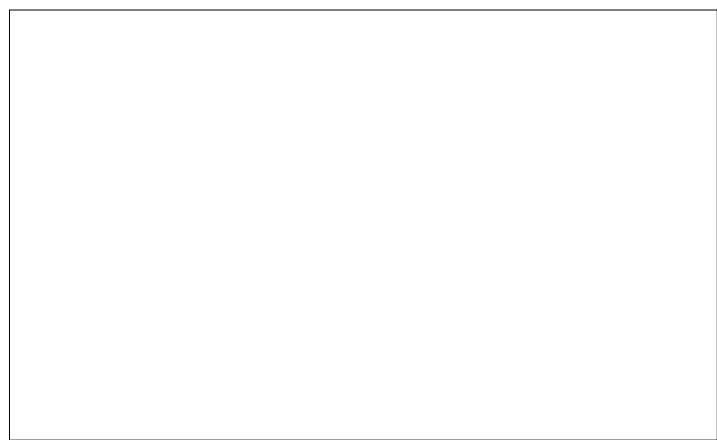
Adoption

The mandate pledged that world leaders would come up with legally binding climate targets in five years. The third Cop conference saw what some climate campaigners believed to be a breakthrough in the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol.

This protocol put binding individual emissions targets on 37 industrialised nations to reduce their emissions and for developing countries to monitor theirs.

Despite lofty promises the protocol made, those at Cop were in no rush to implement it. The protocol was only ratified in 2005 and entered its first commitment period in 2008—over a decade after it was adopted.

From 1990 to 2010 emissions were allowed to rise by 32 percent and only



Protesters break in to the COP conference in Durban, South Africa, in 2011 (see story, right)

dipped slightly due to the financial crash of 2007-08. Those at the top are likely to say the Kyoto Protocol was slow to be implemented due to complicated bureaucratic processes.

In reality, the protocols were designed to delay the action that developed countries needed to take. These years of inaction debating the failing protocols were nine years lost in the fight against climate change.

Inaction after Cop events is common. The entire Cop process is constrained and limited by trying to work within the limits laid out by continued capitalist accumulation.

Cop pay lip service to necessary action—so long as it doesn't their lust for profit and accumulation.

In 2007 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a

damning report about the climate crisis's immediate threat to humanity.

Contributors to the report found that “Evidence for global warming was unequivocal and most likely due to human activities.” But the report from that year also made it clear that with cooperation between nations, there was hope.

Scientists calculated that “effective adaptation” to combat the crisis would cost “no more than 0.12 percent of global GDP a year up to 2030.”

Ingored

Scientists had handed world leaders and policymakers a warning and a lifeline, but those in power ignored it.

That same year Cop13 in Bali, Indonesia saw, as usual, much squabbling between nations.

The only real takeaway from the summit was that binding agreements would be made two years later.

Two years passed, and Cop arrived in Copenhagen, Denmark. There have been many “big ones” in Cop history, and Copenhagen was one of those “big ones”.

It was received with real hope from the climate movement and civil society, who believed a legally binding agreement could finally be made.

But these hopes were dashed again. The battle to even get nations to come to any kind of binding agreement has been a long and arduous one.

The Kyoto Protocol showed this. Despite moves to renew the protocols in 2012 it was all but abandoned the

following year. But after 21 years of quarrelling, world leaders finally came to a supposedly binding agreement—in the form of the Paris Climate Accords.

The Paris climate accords were adopted by 196 parties at Cop21 in 2016 to keep global temperatures rises below two, preferably 1.5 degrees.

States were to submit their first report on targets they would set to cut down on emissions by 2030 every five years.

Of the countries that signed up, only 75 managed to submit their report on time in 2021, and only 16 countries devised a climate action plan good enough to meet their pledges.

After decades of pointless conferences, a supposedly binding agreement ended up being just as flimsy as those that proceeded it.

Despite this, world leaders patted themselves on the back for the Paris Accords and attended three more conferences where those in attendance proposed little concrete action.

Some have described Cop26 in November as another “big one”.

The conference will be the first since the latest IPCC report warned many of the processes set in motion by global warming are “irreversible”.

Prime minister Boris Johnson has described the approaching conference as a “critical moment for our planet and our people.”

But with over 20 years of broken promises and inaction Cop26 will likely fail to address the urgency of the climate crisis.



New from Socialist Worker

The Great Climate Cop Out—why Cop26 will not solve the environmental crisis
by Martin Empson

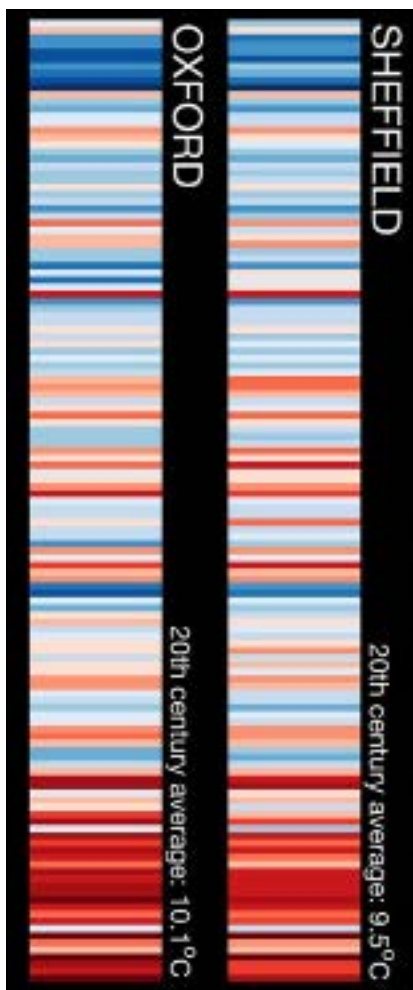
Available for £2 from all Socialist Worker sellers and from our circulation department

●Phone
020 7840 5601
●Email
swcirc@swp.org.uk

**You caan also read it online at
bit.ly/39qX1U**



Temperature bands from 1890 -2010 show how far two British cities have deviated from the average temperature of the 20th century. The darker the red, the bigger the difference. The most recent years are at the bottom.



How protesters have defied many sell outs at the COPs

THE HISTORY of Cop is a history of inaction and stalling by world leaders that have positioned themselves as climate champions.

But this has not gone unnoticed by ordinary people.

Cop throughout the years has served as an opportunity for protesters to not only rage against climate inaction but the very system we live under.

Conferences in lavish resorts have been met with anger by those pushed into poverty by the world leaders in attendance.

And the divide between what goes on inside the conferences is often contrasted to state violence protesters are met with outside.

At protests at Cop15 in Denmark, 2009, up to 100,000 climate activists joined angry protests outside the conference.

Socialist Worker reported on the repression protesters faced at the time.

It wrote, “The Danish riot police managed to divert many of the protesters onto different roads. There they ‘kettled’ and arrested almost 1,000 people—1 percent of all the protesters—under new ‘pre-emptive arrest’ laws.”

At Cop17 two years later in Durban, South Africa, protests were smaller but just as lively.

Over 10,000 protesters took to the city's streets to demand more than what the conference could offer.

Activists were even able to breach one of the conference halls to wave signs that warned the climate crisis would mean death across Africa.

Moving to Cop21, thousands of protesters defied a state ban to take to the streets of Paris.

The climate movement in recent years has swelled owing, in part, to the 2018 IPCC, which called for urgent action to keep temperatures below 1.5 degrees.

Pressure

Those at the top inside Cop have acknowledged the movement—inviting climate activist Greta Thunberg to speak at the 2019 Madrid conference.

World leaders such as president Joe Biden are now under increasing pressure to appear as climate leaders to satisfy millions in the US who are concerned about the environment.

But the point of protests is not simply to make policymakers enact reform. They are an opportunity to say that a different kind of system is possible.

A system that wouldn't use state repression to separate ordinary people from decision-making processes or destroy the planet in the pursuit of profit.

At Cop26 in Glasgow, hope for a better world will lie outside the conference walls, not inside.

How big powers sabotage talks

THE WORLD'S biggest polluters have a long history of sabotaging talks at Cop summits.

An example of this was at Cop13 in 2007 when tensions ran high as the US delegation used stalling tactics to block progress.

Famously the delegate from Papua New Guinea, Kevin Conrad, told the US that year, “If you cannot lead, leave it to the rest of us. Please get out of the way.”

But US tactics worked, and it effectively blocked a proposal to cut emissions by 40 percent by 2020.

At Cop conferences, the most powerful nations jostle to delay pledges and make commitments as small possible. Shockingly, China and the US only promised to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at all in 2014.

Sometimes these nations have worked together to form powerful blocs to ram through what they want, and other times they have worked against each other.

In 2001 the US decided to retreat from the Kyoto Protocol. It complained that the agreement did not include developing countries that could one day produce higher emissions.

A new pact, led by the US, was signed in 2005 called the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate (APP). Its signatories included Australia, Canada, China, India, Japan and South Korea.

According to US officials, the creation of the APP was not to replace the Kyoto Protocol but formed as an alternative strategy. This alternative strategy placed no mandatory enforcement on member nations to commit to climate targets, making it worthless. Former

US president George W Bush called the APP a “new results-oriented partnership that will allow our nations to develop and accelerate deployment of cleaner, more efficient energy technologies to meet national pollution reduction, energy security and climate change concerns in ways that reduce poverty and promote economic development.”

The creation of the APP was another way for the US and other states to dodge making binding promises to lower emissions—to appear greener but do nothing.

All of the most polluting countries signing the binding Paris Accord may seem like a break from this.

Signed

But it's important to note these countries signed because less developed countries were also mandated to cut down on emissions. And the US had a three-year break from accords after former president Donald Trump pulled the country out in 2017.

The pursuit of profit has always been put first on the floor of Cop, especially by the most powerful nations in the world.

For them, economic dominance and imperialist competition have always been more important than preserving the planet. There cannot be substantial progress under a capitalist system that's dominated by national rivalries and competition.

Maintaining both economic growth and imperialist rivalries means that the Cop process doesn't “go wrong”, it is inevitable that it will be inadequate.



Despite lofty promises at Kyoto there was no rush to implement them

WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties.

We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women.

We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We oppose discrimination against disabled people including those who experience mental distress.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests.

We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to www.swp.org.uk or phone 020 7840 5602

Socialist Workers Party online meetings

Capitalism breeds racism

F**k the system—is socialism possible?

CAMBRIDGE
Thu 14 Oct, 7.30pm
681-800-4408

LONDON: WEST AND NORTH WEST
Thu 14 Oct, 7.30pm
878-5774-8899

OXFORD & THAMES VALLEY
Wed 13 Oct, 7pm
861-2001-6477

BIRMINGHAM

Let's talk about sex—Marxism and sexual liberation

Wed 13 Oct, 7pm

281-634-5938

BLACK COUNTRY, SHROPSHIRE & STAFFORDSHIRE

After the Unite union elections—how can we rebuild our unions?

Wed 13 Oct, 8pm

914-9548-1031

BRADFORD

Why does the free market fail?

Thu 14 Oct, 7pm

885-9187-7552

BRISTOL

Booklaunch: Work and resistance in the 21st century

Thu 14 Oct,

7.30pm

688-397-3148

With author Jane Hardy

CARDIFF

The bloody role of Western imperialism in Palestine and the Middle East

Wed 13 Oct,

7.30pm

630-181-4857

CHESTERFIELD

Imperialism and the shifting balance of power

Thu 14 Oct, 7pm

828-532-8731

COLCHESTER

9/11, 20 years on—Afghanistan and the failures of US imperialism

Thu 21 Oct, 7.30pm

466-478-2013

COVENTRY

20 years after Genoa—anti-capitalism and the state

Wed 13 Oct, 7.30pm

823-945-1917

DEVON & CORNWALL

As Starmer puts the boot in—socialists and the Labour Party

Thu 14 Oct, 7.30pm

865-2972-2883

DUNDEE, ABERDEEN & PERTH

Booklaunch: Rebellious Daughters of History

Wed 13 Oct, 7.30pm

894-2628-7708

with author Judy Cox

EAST MIDLANDS

Sexism, the police and the state

Wed 13 Oct, 7pm

354-874-4790

GLASGOW

Aukus and the new imperialism

Thu 14 Oct, 7pm

879-2402-3259

HARLOW

A revolutionary guide to trans liberation

Thu 14 Oct, 7.30pm

832-8746-7480

HASTINGS

Sexism and the system—the origins of women's oppression

Wed 13 Oct, 7.30pm

880-5464-3685

HOME COUNTIES

Code red—why capitalism causes climate catastrophe

Thu 14 Oct, 6.30pm

992-204-9372

HUDDERSFIELD

Is this democracy? Parliament, people and power

Wed 13 Oct, 6.30pm

290-168-1804

KENT

Pamphlet launch: Capitalism and the politics of food

Thu 14 Oct,

8.15pm

434-623-8064

LANCASTER AND MORECAMBE

Let's talk about sex—Marxism and sexual liberation

Thu 14 Oct, 7pm

992-204-9372

LEEDS

Racism, resistance and revolution

Thu 14 Oct, 6pm

881-4770-0676

LONDON: HACKNEY

The US and China—imperialism and the shifting balance of power

Thu 14 Oct, 7.30pm

854-8245-8715

LONDON: HARINGEY

How revolution ended slavery—the Haitian Revolution

Wed 13 Oct,

7.30pm

459-388-1576

LONDON: ISLINGTON

What do we mean by climate justice?

Thu 14 Oct, 7pm

874-012-7970

LONDON: NEWHAM

Why the COP process has failed to tackle climate change

Wed 13 Oct, 7pm

288-098-8827

LONDON: SOUTH

The Tories' winter crisis—fighting a failing system

Wed 13 Oct, 7pm

497-196-1801

LONDON: SOUTH EAST

Why the COP process has failed to tackle climate change

Thu 14 Oct, 7pm

529-913-6390

LONDON: TOWER HAMLETS

Racism, resistance and revolution

Wed 13 Oct,

7.30pm

818-391-0420

LONDON: WALTHAM FOREST

France, Macron and Islamophobia

Wed 13 Oct,

7.30pm

543-023-057

MANCHESTER

Fighting racism today—lessons from Martin Luther King and Malcolm X

Wed 13 Oct, 7.15pm

323-178-7151

NEWCASTLE

After the Unite union elections—how can we rebuild our unions?

Wed 13 Oct, 7pm

368-595-2712

NORWICH

Climate change, anti-racism and refugees

Wed 13 Oct, 7.30pm

906-652-5299

SHEFFIELD & SOUTH YORKSHIRE

Soundtrack to the struggle

Thu 14 Oct, 7pm

528-174-9278

SOUTHAMPTON

As Starmer puts the boot in—socialists and the Labour Party

Wed 13 Oct, 7.30pm

381-513-5080

SWANSEA & WEST WALES

Let's talk about sex—Marxism and sexual liberation

Thu 14 Oct, 7pm

902-964-963

WIGAN

Is human nature a barrier to socialism?

Thu 14 Oct, 7pm

872-5136-9540

YORK & SCARBOROUGH

Cuba—imperialism and mass protests

Wed 13 Oct, 7pm

827-489-7492

BOOKMARKS the socialist bookshop



The Labour Party—a Marxist History
by Tony Cliff, Donny Gluckstein and Charlie Kimber, £14.99



Breaking Up the British State—Scotland, Independence and Socialism £12



Does privilege explain racism?
by Esme Choonara, Ken Olende, Yuri Prasad and Weyman Bennett, £3



Transgender Resistance
by Laura Miles, £10

PHONE 020 7637 1848 WEB bookmarksbookshop.co.uk

CONTACT THE SWP

Phone 020 7840 5600
Email enquiries@swp.org.uk
Post PO Box 74955
London E16 9EJ

Spy thriller brings hidden anti-fascist history to life

A young Jewish woman finds herself drawn into the murky world of Britain's Nazis—and a side of the 60s that some would rather forget, says **Nick Clark**

RIDLEY ROAD is a little told—and perhaps deliberately forgotten—bit of not so distant British history. It's a fictional spy thriller set against the real life backdrop of a physical fight against the Nazis.

It's the early 1960s and "neo" Nazis combine swastika-waving rallies in Trafalgar Square with clandestine arson attacks on synagogues and Jewish schools. The 62 group—a tightly organised band of mostly Jewish anti-fascists—organises to physically stop them.

Amid all this, Vivian (Agnes O'Casey), a young Jewish woman from Manchester, runs away to east London to find her lost boyfriend Jack.

Almost before she even knows what's happening, Vivian is drawn into the world of the 62 Group—and then undercover among the Nazis themselves.

Antidote

This show—based on the novel by Jo Bloom—might be an antidote to the twee, romanticised 60s of some other Sunday night fare such as *Call the Midwife*.

Establishment history might like us to think fascism could never take root in Britain after the Second World War thanks to British "tolerance" and the folk memory of the fight against the Nazis.

Ridley Road tells us different—that not two decades after the war had ended, swastika-waving thugs could march openly in central London.

As the show's writer, Sarah Soleiman, said, "Britain's relationship with fascism is closer and more alive than we like to think. Luckily, so is our rich heritage of fighting it."



VIVIAN IS caught in the fray as anti-fascists confront a Nazi rally

PICTURE: BBC/RED PRODUCTIONS

"Jo Bloom's gripping book revealed a darker side of sixties London and the staggering contribution the Jewish community made in the battle against racism."

In one scene, a dramatised Nazi rally in Trafalgar Square mixes with genuine newsreel of the same event, just to push the point home.

It's also not afraid to puncture the idealised myth of the firm and fair British bobby. The police are almost

entirely uninterested in protecting Jews from the Nazis.

As Vivian escapes the rally with her black friend Stevie (Gabriel Akuwudike) they're followed by a gang of Nazis. A cop on horseback arrives, only to chase Stevie off.

Ridley Road also wants to tell us that racism, fascism, and the reasons they can take root, are sometimes hidden just below the surface.

Too many people don't realise the

danger until it's too late, 62 Group fighter Sol (Eddie Marsan) tells Vivian. His warning comes just at the pivotal point, when the antisemitism that's been the backdrop to Vivian's story suddenly takes centre stage.

But *Ridley Road* also wants to remind us that the Nazis were stopped because people fought back.

Ridley Road is on Sundays, 9pm, BBC1. The first episode is already available on BBC iPlayer

A BBC documentary that wants to reheat Blairism

TELEVISION

BLAIR & BROWN: THE NEW LABOUR REVOLUTION

On Mondays, 9pm, BBC2. The first episode is already available on BBC iPlayer

THIS DOCUMENTARY is the story of Blairism as Tony Blair himself would like it to be told.

It says Blair and Gordon Brown—together with Peter Mandelson and Alistair Campbell—"modernised" Labour and rescued it from electoral oblivion. So before we suffer the meat of the

show, we've got to endure some fluff about how wonderful they both were as young men.

Brown as the fantastically intelligent student from a working class background. Blair as the cool young rebel who found his calling as a politician.

The young Blair wasn't very political, he says. But, says the show, he recognised Labour had problems—and only he knew how to fix it.

The problem with the Labour Party, surprisingly, was the Miners' Strike.



Brown and Blair

That's not apparently because Labour didn't back the miners but because it was seen as too close to them.

This is fantasy history where people didn't support the miners, and Labour's task was to distance themselves from nationalisation, trade unions and the like.

He and his mates all say this was simply about modernising the party's image, with a new red rose logo. But there's clearly politics here as well. As Mandelson says, "Communications can only

take you so far. It's your policies that take you past the winning post." What were those policies? Well, "Tony was asking whether there wasn't something that the Tories had perhaps got right."

You won't miss the non-too subtle overtones linking Blair's bid to make Labour "electable" with Keir Starmer's today.

One difference is striking though. Blair and the New Labour right at least had an idea of what they wanted to do with the Labour Party. All Starmer has is reheated Blairism.

Music industry needs to change its record

CHRISTMAS SERVES the same purpose for both the music and chocolate industries—it's a chance to unload tonnes of regurgitated crap.

This festive season we can expect tosh from Abba, Elton John and even Duran Duran.

But more than just polluting our ears, the dominance of big artists and labels has a terrible effect on small bands and less popular genres.

All the world's remaining record pressing plants are running flat out.

The Universal Music Group, Warner and Sony have effectively bought out all the production slots for the rest of the year.

The problem has now been made far worse by a global shortage of PVC, which puts the V in vinyl.

Hurricane Ida hit the Gulf of Mexico last month with such ferocity that it stopped petroleum production across the region.

As a consequence, it wiped out up to 60 percent of the US's PVC production.

The effect of this twin crisis of too few plants, and too little raw material



Can we turn the tables on Spotify?

is already having a devastating effect on new music.

Lots of artists are unable to release new material, and are delaying already recorded albums for months, if not years.

Why should vinyl matter in an age when most of us consume our music digitally?

The problem is that streaming services such as Spotify barely pay a penny per track to artists for their work. Small outfits survive by selling physical records where profit margins are higher, and that's one reason why a new vinyl album can cost £30.

The unfortunate truth is that vinyl is an ecological disaster and hoping for more pressing plants and cheaper PVC is not sustainable.

Instead, there needs to be a challenge to the dominance of the streaming industry.

Yuri Prasad

ONE thing the left still inside the Labour Party appear to agree with socialists outside about is that we need more struggle outside parliament.

Whether it's the climate change movement, the anti-racist struggle, or strikes and industrial disputes, Labour left group Momentum says it wants to be there.

Great—so do we. The difference is why.

We both want to see victories wherever people fight back. For us at Socialist Worker, every strike that wins is an example of the power workers have against the ravages of the system.

We want every struggle to be a building block in a bigger, angrier, more militant movement, capable of ending that system once and for all.

But for many Labour members, those struggles can only get so far without some sympathetic force in parliament.

As one activist at the recent The World Transformed festival put it to Socialist Worker, “Extinction Rebellion, Black Lives Matter and Kill the Bill are all great. But they need those MPs in parliament to change things.”

That's why Momentum sees itself as a movement that connects the struggles outside Labour with the battles of the left within.

Its handbook, *Socialist Organising in a New Era*, puts this neatly.

“Momentum will act as a bridge between extra-party struggle and Labour,” it says. “Helping to channel the demands of social movements and working class communities into the party's policy platform, while encouraging our members to get involved in trade unions and community struggles.”

“This is the long-term work needed to build a democratic movement for socialism.”

BEHIND THIS is a political theory that says if Labour activists can “open up” its structures to movements outside parliament it can overcome the dominance of the right.

Momentum's organisers look to the work of theorist Leo Panitch, who argued that Corbynism failed because it didn't manage to do this.

The question is, why.

Even at the height of Corbyn's strength, activists talked about using Momentum to build movements and strengthen the party's leadership. But it never really happened.

For one thing, Corbyn's leadership after 2017 became preoccupied with behaving



WHY STRUGGLE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN PARLIAMENT

For the Labour left the movements outside of parliament are important but always secondary. Nick Clark explains why the party holds even its most militant members back

more like a government in waiting, and trapped in parliamentary manoeuvring. The realities of what it means to operate in parliament pulled them away from struggles outside and isolated them.

This same pull was reflected in Momentum. It never disavowed the idea that it would build and support extra-parliamentary struggle. But in practice, its focus was on becoming an extremely effective canvassing machine.

This conditioned its attitude to the movements that did

extra-parliamentary action— which one's more important?

Is activity in parliament directed towards encouraging and strengthening the mass action of the struggles outside? Or are those movements subordinated to a supporting role, propping up and defending left wing MPs?

Answering “both” will only take you so far. The problems that comes with trying to work within the parliamentary system will force you to choose.

And if getting elected and being in government is the core of your strategy, parliament comes before all else.

HERE'S A small example. In 2019, the school climate strike movement in Britain found common cause with the Labour left over the demand for a Green New Deal.

This is a set of policies and reforms designed to create new green industries and jobs. Implementation in parliament by a progressive government is the lynchpin of its strategy.

While the organisers of the climate strikes adopted it as a central demand, activists linked to Momentum pushed to make it official Labour Party policy.

And when Labour's conference that year did just that, school strikers were invited on stage to speak.

Yet just months later, the movement's most radical demands had either been dropped from Labour's election manifesto or had been watered down.

The same went for other left wing conference resolutions, such as free movement for migrants, and the abolition of private schools.

Partly this was to appease the union leaders who fund Labour, and the right wing MPs who could sabotage the whole thing.

Partly it was to make Labour appear “electable,” and its programme “workable” in parliament.

Either way, the demands of parliament had trumped the hopes of the movement once again.

Just to show that this isn't only a Labour Party problem, look at two of Europe's more successful radical left electoral parties.

Syriza in Greece, and Podemos in the Spanish state both had much stronger connections with movements of struggle outside their parliamentary systems.

Syriza rose to prominence on the back of several general strikes against some of the most vicious austerity measures in Europe.

Yet even in 2012—three years before its election and betrayal—its leaders helped to call off strikes, as they tried to appear as a “government in waiting.”

It's to do with a much more fundamental question that faces every political project seeking to marry parliamentary and



Are movements subordinated to a supporting role, propping up left wing MPs?

For its part, Podemos was born out of a movement of mass occupations of city squares. It too began to water down its radicalism and distance itself from the left following electoral success.

Its leader Pablo Iglesias soon changed his tune on the movements. “That idiocy that we used to say when we were on the extreme left that things change in the street and not in institutions, is a lie,” he said in 2016.

Podemos abandoned movements for parliament—and formed a coalition with a party of austerity, PSOE.

No rule change inside the Labour Party, no amount of committee positions occupied, and no set number of left wing MPs, can solve this problem.

For Panitch, the answer was to return to “democratising” the Labour Party so the pull of the movements is stronger than that of parliament.

The left has to complete this arduous task before it can even begin to think of electing another left wing leader and trying again in government.

But even Panitch knew this approach is flawed, as he described what happened to supporters of Tony Benn who tried it decades ago.

Shortly before he died, Panitch wrote that the left, “In concentrating on trying to change the Labour Party, it became trapped in that struggle. It never solved the problem of having to fight for its goals through unending party committees and conferences without becoming absorbed by them.”

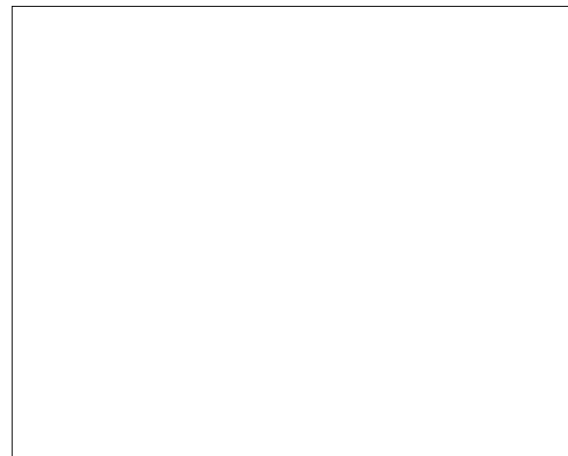
“Almost an entire political generation were committed in this way.”

Those activists didn't strengthen Labour's connection with extra-parliamentary movements—the Labour Party severed them from it.

THAT'S WHY alarm bells should ring at John McDonnell's call on Labour activists to encourage people leading struggle to enter Labour and take part in its internal wars.

Things are too urgent for that. The world is in the teeth of the climate crisis and the rich are waging war on ordinary people to save their crumbling system.

Do we have another five or even ten years to spare to



General strike in Greece in 2014 (top) Climate strikes (above)

transform the Labour party, get them into power and make transformative social reform? The answer is no.

It would be a catastrophe if the people who fight back are swallowed up by bureaucratic struggles inside a party that leads nowhere.

The main problem in trade unions isn't that they need more officials who vote the right way at Labour Party conferences.

It's that those same officials have failed consistently to encourage and lead their members into strikes that can defend their jobs, pay and living conditions.

And the movements over climate change, racism and police violence don't need motions and manifesto pledges. They need to be much bigger, even more militant, and more working class.

They do need political organisation.

Not one that tries to represent them in the confines of parliament, but one that works to link them all together, draws them into the workplace and trade unions and builds the confidence of everyone who wants to fight.

It's not the Labour Party.

READ MORE

●The Labour Party: A Marxist History

by Tony Cliff, Charlie Kimber, Donny Gluckstein £14.99

●Why it's time to leave Labour

by Charlie Kimber bit.ly/leavelab

●System Change not Climate Change

Edited by Martin Empson £8

Available at Bookmarks, the socialist bookshop. Phone 020 7637 1848 or go to www.bookmarksbookshop.co.uk



COMMENT

Now is definitely the best time for James Bond to die

With the release of the latest film in the James Bond franchise, *No Time to Die*, **Simon Basketter** argues that it's high time we see the sexist spy, and the film series' reactionary politics, bite the dust

HAPPILY, JAMES Bond dies at the end of the latest franchise outing *No Time To Die*. But unfortunately the formulaic advertising behemoth probably isn't dead yet.

The Spectator magazine claims, “No Time to Die matters to Britain. There's never been a more opportune time to deploy Bond and all the soft power he affords.”

“If the latest Bond movie is a box office hit, when Liz Truss next calls a foreign leader chances are the phone will get picked up in two rings, not four.”

The British state sort of agrees with this tosh. *No Time To Die* received £47 million in tax credits on a production spend of £200 million.

But the help does not stop there. MI6 torturer in chief Sir Alex Younger gave his personal green ink pen to his fictional equivalent on the set of *No Time to Die* “during a top secret visit” according to the press releases.

Screen

In *No Time to Die*, Bond sits on a beach in Jamaica, the label on his can of Heineken pointing to the screen.

The first Bond movie —1963's *Dr No*—was released as Jamaica emerged as an independent nation away from the British Empire. It's where Ian Fleming wrote the books.

When his first Bond novel, *Casino Royale*, was published in 1953, Britain was still at the centre of an empire, but it was collapsing fast.

The link was not just fictional. In 1956 Prime Minister Sir Anthony Eden spent a month at Fleming's home after Eden's health collapsed in the wake of the Suez Crisis. And the initial

BOND CONTEMPLATING how he will redefine himself

anti-Communist politics of the books were intended to be serious. Fleming met John F Kennedy in 1960 to provide advice on assassinating Fidel Castro.

Fleming gave his villains various physical impairments, injuries and disabilities. Hugo Drax has an overbite and scars, Oddjob has a cleft palate.

The Craig era has been keen on the tedious trope, and the baddies in *No Time To Die* both have facial disfigurements.

Each movie incarnation, from Sean Connery to Roger Moore and up to Daniel Craig, reacted to the changing climates to make cash.

Fleming's reactionary politics would not have created the scripts of later Bond films, which water down much of the right wing politics implicit in the character.

The end of the Cold War meant Bond and the context around him—his relationship

with women and the nature of the threats that he faces—changed to maintain the franchise's appeal. And to keep the cash flowing.

The villains have lost most of their more overtly racist and homophobic elements.

When Daniel Craig became Bond, the emphasis was shifted to redefining Bond with a superficial questioning of his place in the world.

The alcoholic assassin has always carried world-weariness and melancholy along with his 70 cigarettes a day. So this element is not as new as the current franchise holders like to make out.

Violence

They updated the violence by copying the Jason Bourne films. They updated the politics by getting vaguely corporate, vaguely terrorist baddies.

But the sexual politics retained their essential creepiness throughout. Until now—sort of.

The Sun has bemoaned the “woke” Bond and moaned that it wanted “him shooting baddies and getting laid—and I don't want him apologising for it afterwards—for the sake of men everywhere.”

That the women aren't there for Bond to have sex with is progress of a sort.

But women remain simply plot devices. *No Time to Die* has removed sex, if not all the sexism, but the Bond universe is as it ever was.

Time to put it out of our misery.



Fleming met John F Kennedy to provide advice on assassinating Fidel Castro

Leo Panitch

Don't let Black History Month be tamed

by YURI PRASAD

HAS BLACK History Month become a pale reflection of what it should be?

The series of events this October have the ringing endorsement of well known anti-racist Boris Johnson.

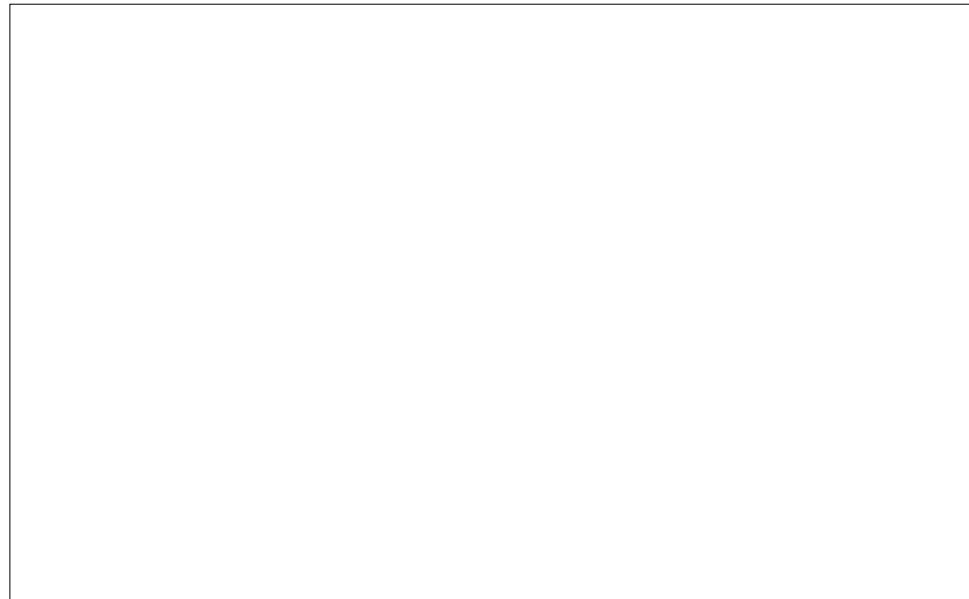
He tells us that “for countless generations people of African and Caribbean have been shaping our nation’s history”, and that this year he will joining us to help celebrate them.

Across Britain, councils will put on specifically sanctioned events that give the appearance of participation but which, in some cases, are little more than tokenism.

What will a soul tribute band performing the hits of the 1960s in a farthest east London hall contribute to people’s understanding of black liberation?

It’s a far cry from the rebellion of pupils, parents and teachers that helped put black British history on the map, if not the school curriculum in the 1970s.

Back then, the way that the education system treated



EVERYONE BENEFITS from learning about the great Haitian slave revolt

African, African-Caribbean and Asian children was a cause of huge anger.

Black pupils were disproportionately labelled as “subnormal”. Not only that, what was being taught seemed specifically designed to leave out their history and their stories—so rendering them as “outsiders”. Parents

created supplementary schools and unofficial extra classes to try redress the balance. But there was always a strong feeling that state education should be forced to change.

That mood drew on the movement for black liberation in the US. Students and educators at Kent State

university initiated their first “Black History Month” event in 1970. That was just weeks before troops were sent onto the campus to shoot down anti-war protesters.

The idea had grown out of the radical Civil Rights and Black Power movements, but also out of similarly-styled events in the 1920s. By

the mid-1970s, there were related activities yearly at many schools and colleges.

It was ten years later before something similar happened in Britain. But by then the initiative had passed from grassroots parents and pupils to elected officials from the Greater London Council.

The radical movement for black liberation in Britain had from the late 1960s to the mid-1980s comprised militant street demonstrations, strikes and riots.

Struggle

In the process, the argument for “political blackness” advanced.

As a category of struggle, it was a way of grouping together all those groups that suffered racism because of the shade of their skin.

But as the movement retreated, its power increasingly leached to local councillors and other “people in power.” It also fragmented along ethnic lines.

So when Black History Month transferred to schools in Britain it was a contradictory affair.

It had elements of the

radical resistance to racism within it. But it was a muted vision that would be more palatable to school heads and local education authorities.

At its best black history taught in schools could give people a sense of place and belonging.

The effect of this should not be underestimated in a world where black and brown children were constantly insulted.

It could also show the ways that black and white people’s lives in Britain have for hundreds of years been intertwined, and improved most when they have struggled together.

In that sense, Black History Month is important for white children too.

Knowledge of colonial slave rebellions in the Caribbean, the radical abolitionist movement in Britain, the fight for freedom from British colonialism—and the great urban rebellions of the 1980s—can inspire all those searching for justice today.

That’s why black history should be a weapon in the class struggle, not a box-ticking exercise for politicians.

**JOIN THE
SOCIALIST
WORKERS
PARTY**

- ☐ Yes, I'd like to be a member
☐ I'd like more information and to receive emails

Name

Address

Postcode

Phone

Email

Return to SWP membership department, PO Box 74955
London E16 9EJ. Phone 020 7840 5602

Email membership@swp.org.uk



Subscribe to Socialist Worker

Have Socialist Worker delivered with your post every week for a direct debit of £5 a month

I want to subscribe to Socialist Worker with a monthly direct debit of £5

Name

Address

Postcode

E-mail

Phone

I would like ____ extra papers to sell
(this will not be deducted from my bank account)

For official use only—this is not part of the instructions to your bank/building society

Sherborne Publications,
PO Box 74955 London E16 9EJ

Instruction to your bank or building society to pay by direct debit

Originator identification no. 9 7 3 3 5 5

Our reference no.

.....

1. Name and full postal address of your bank or building society

To the manager:

Bank/building society

Address

Postcode

2. Name(s) of account holder(s)

.....

3. Branch sort code / /

4. Bank/building society account no.

.....

5. Instruction to your bank or building society
Please pay Sherborne Publications direct debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the direct debit guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Sherborne Publications and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my bank or building society.

Signature(s)

Date

Banks and building societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions from some types of account



Direct debit guarantee

■ This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay Direct Debits.

■ If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit Sherborne Publications will notify you ten working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request Sherborne Publications to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.

■ If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit by Sherborne Publications or your bank or building society you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society.

■ If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when Sherborne Publications asks you to.

■ You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.

Socialist Worker Subscriptions

Post PO Box 74955 London E16 9EJ
Phone 020 7840 5601

Web www.socialistworker.co.uk

'I'm terrified,' say students on returning to universities

As Covid cases soar, the Tories are clear the universities should open for business as usual. **Sam Ord** speaks to students and workers about how they feel going into the new term

BRITISH UNIVERSITIES have started opening their doors and the Tories are insistent on in person teaching.

However with over 27,000 daily Covid-19 cases in the United Kingdom last week, students heading to campus are rightfully apprehensive and anxious.

Jeandre, a third year psychology student at Liverpool Hope University, feels "completely disconcerted".

She struggled to find accommodation this year, leaving her no option but to return to university halls.

She told Socialist Worker, "I'm terrified, I fear I might get locked in my room or suffer from Covid-19."

Last year the Tories' forced return to campus sparked a violent wave of infections resulting in hundreds of students being locked in their halls.

The current infection level is five times higher than at the start of term last year.

Jeandre believes that the university management and the Tories allowed Covid-19 to rip through campuses last year, so they could continue charging tuition fees and rent.

Support

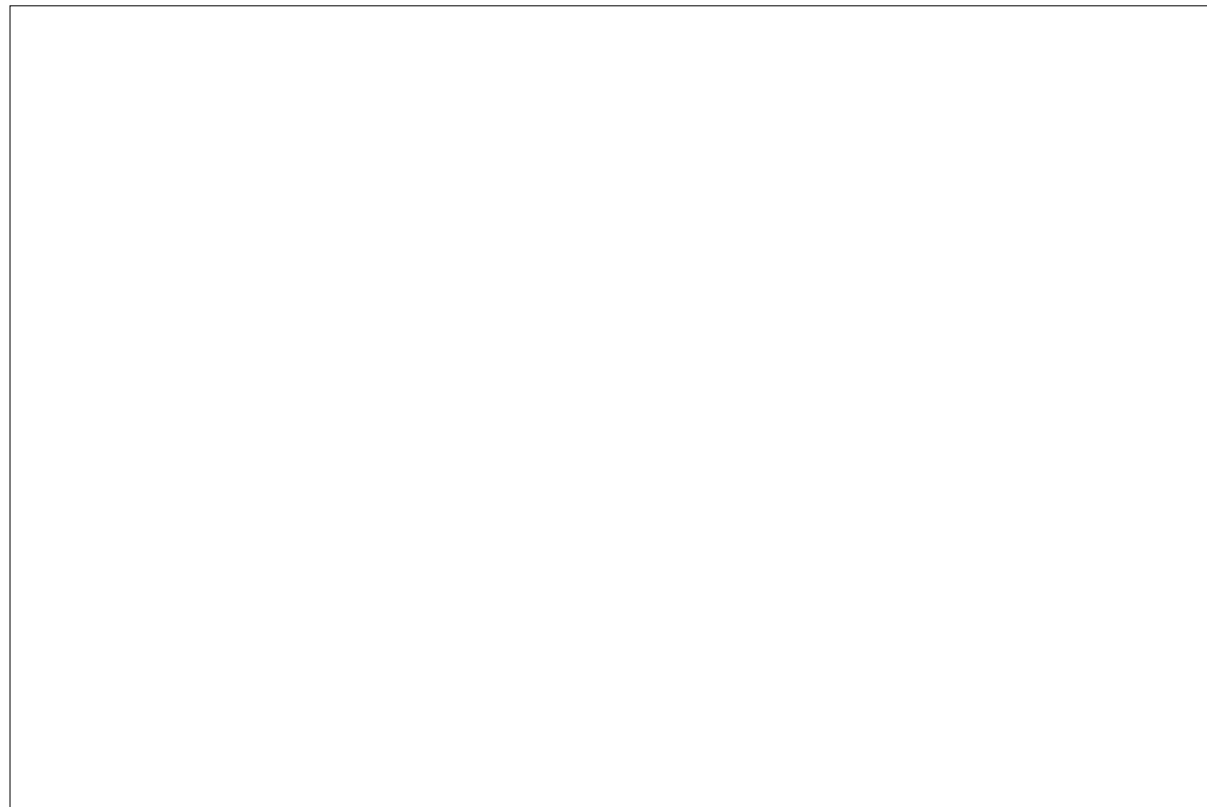
She said, "I don't feel like I had a second year.

"Now I find it hard to find momentum and support to see how I've progressed."

Last year's crisis is a warning that the government and university bosses are choosing to ignore.

As school pupils returned to classrooms last month, it resulted in 122,000 children having to take time off for Covid-19 related reasons.

Twelve percent of English school pupils reported Covid-19 symptoms weeks after infection. In some areas



STUDENTS ON picket lines during the UCU strike in 2020

across England up to one in ten teachers are absent.

Despite these warnings university bosses are forcing a shift back to face to face teaching with just a few lectures remaining online.

Oli, a third year criminology student at the University of Wolverhampton, explained how masks and social distancing aren't enforced on campus.

He told Socialist Worker, "I'm scared for the more vulnerable students. The University doesn't seem to

have enough safety measures in place. "Education must be accessible to all, all of the time."

To address this, Oli said, the university shouldn't put additional pressure onto staff but should "hire more cleaning staff on good pay".

Matthew, a first year Information Technology student at Liverpool John Moores university, is worried that Covid-19 related absences will hit his education.

He said the lack of mask wearing

makes it almost "inevitable" that people will catch the virus.

He told Socialist Worker, "Some of my lessons are online, but it depends on the lecturer if that happens.

"I've been sick recently and missed some induction sessions. If I had Covid-19 and was told to isolate, it wouldn't be easy to catch up."

Starting university he'd like to see "both in person and online lectures" but believes to do this, "lecturers should get paid more".

Unsafe campuses are causing anxiety for some workers

THE TORIES remain committed to a return to normal in universities but are failing to implement vital safety measures and equipment.

Former education secretary Gavin Williamson expected "all universities, unless there's unprecedented reasons, to be moving back to the situation of actually delivering lessons, lectures face to face".

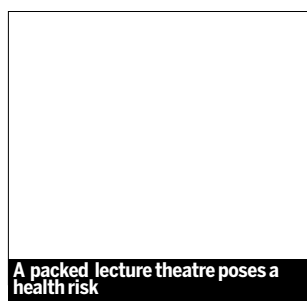
But university workers and unions say the government is creating "widespread anxiety" amongst staff by failing to

give clear advice.

The Independent Sage group of scientists published a report that said students should be required to wear masks at university. But universities have the choice to choose whether they require mask wearing or not.

Roddy is the UCU union branch secretary at Imperial College London, he told Socialist Worker that his colleagues have a range of views regarding students returning to campus.

"Some are complacent, some believe everything's



A packed lecture theatre poses a health risk

OK and others have real anxieties," he said.

Students and university workers shouldn't be forced to return to crowded, unsafe campuses.

Roddy believes changes

need to happen to make campuses safe. "One of the big things is ventilation and CO2 monitors whilst ensuring no one is teaching in enclosed areas," he said.

Workers and their unions shouldn't shy away from a fight for these changes. His union branch recently passed a motion that called for flexible working.

He explained, "People should be able to travel into campus at times which are safer for them rather than sticking to the regulated time. A lot of the

anxieties about returning to work is navigating very crowded public transport—especially in London."

Roddy added, "We must make education as inclusive as possible." And he believes students shouldn't be forced onto campus and should be given the option to learn from home.

"That shouldn't come at the expense of workers' conditions" he said. "For example, recorded lectures mustn't replace staff who have been made redundant."

Tuition fees are not fair

TORY Chancellor Rishi Sunak is attempting to charge students for the cost of the pandemic.

Currently University students start repaying their huge £9,250 yearly tuition fees once they earn £27,295. Sunak reportedly wants to reduce this to below £25,000.

David Willetts, the former universities minister, recently called



David Willetts

on the government to lower the starting threshold for repaying student loans to annual earnings of just £21,000.

Jeandre said the pandemic has shown "how flawed and unfair tuition fees are".

She added, "We haven't received the same level of education as we did in person.

"I fail to see where my £9,250 is going each year and what impact it has. Lecturers are often on poor pay and are being made redundant."

Oli said charging for education is "complete bullshit—it wasn't worth it last year or any other year."

He added, "The reduction to the cap is to ultimately exclude people like myself—working class people—from higher education.

"Instead of charging students and putting them into debt, they should be taxing their mates."

EDUCATION

ROYAL COLLEGE OF ART

Fight against workloads

WORKERS AT the Royal College of Art in London struck on Monday and Tuesday of this week.

The members of the UCU union are taking action against casualisation, unmanageable workloads and issues of equality.

In August members were balloted on whether to strike or take action short of a strike. They returned an impressive 83 percent yes vote in favour.

Strikers on the picket lines on Monday held signs reading, "Royal College of Burnout" and "Unfair contracts are sexist contracts".

They also organised a "virtual picket line" with more than 30 participants. Workers say they will escalate strikes next week if bosses refuse to meet their demands.

●Donate to the RCA strike fund at bit.ly/rcaucu

JOHN BOKEN

Exam board backs Boken

EXAM BOARD Pearson has upheld an appeal by NEU rep John Boken, who was sacked from his job at Shrewsbury College in the West Midlands.

Bosses at Shrewsbury Colleges Group sacked John after he raised complaints about racism in his workplace.

John and the NEU hope to use Pearson's decision to help him in his fight to be reinstated.

They also plan a rally in his defence next month.



STRIKERS RALLY at Liverpool University

Strikes stop all forced job cuts at Liverpool

by MARK O'BRIEN

STRIKERS AT the University of Liverpool have won a fantastic victory to save jobs—stopping every compulsory redundancy bosses had planned.

University bosses announced plans in January to put the jobs of 47 health lecturers and researchers at risk.

But UCU union members responded with two rounds of strikes.

They also delivered a marking and assessment boycott that meant the university couldn't issue marks and degrees for 1,500 students.

With each round of action, the number of jobs at risk came down. As of last week two jobs were still under threat.

Vindictively, managers had by now withdrawn voluntary severance offers. But UCU members had always said there was only one acceptable number—zero. They had

voted to strike this week, determined to prevent every last redundancy.

The threat of further strikes forced bosses to go back to offering voluntary severance, and with improvements won earlier in negotiations.

This change stance successfully resolved the last two cases, and the redundancy list was closed.

This was a bottom-up strike in every sense.

Strike meetings took place every morning throughout the entire campaign—93 meetings altogether.

The attendance never dropped below 200 all through the summer. Strikers constantly talked with one another through a WhatsApp group of 220 people.

The solidarity work was extraordinary.

We had online rallies, invitations to speak to trade union branches coming in every day, and many tens of thousands of pounds in

donations. This was all made possible by extensive national and local informal networks built by union activists.

During the marking boycott, members without teaching duties helped by sharing a proportion of their wages.

The fight was run with an unusual level of self-reliance.

Along with providing financial support in hardship cases, the UCU branch issued its own strike pay to members for the August strike period.

Local officers, reps and members also had to argue with the national union over crucial aspects of the dispute.

Members had to push the union to authorise the October strike days—and notification only finally went to bosses two minutes before the deadline.

This hard-fought for outcome should be seen as an inspiration to all trade unionists.

We can fight, even in very difficult circumstances, and we can win.

DUNDEE UNIVERSITY



On the picket line in Dundee

Low paid workers in week-long pensions walkout

MEMBERS OF the Unison union at Dundee University struck for five days from Wednesday of last week in defence of their pensions.

Bosses want to close workers' defined benefit scheme entirely and replace it with a much worse defined contribution scheme. This will slash pensions slashed by 40 percent.

The mostly women strikers are already the lowest paid staff in the university and these cuts will cause poverty in retirement.

The current scheme is far from generous. But the new proposals would leave many unable to afford to retire.

Emma, one of the strikers, told their rally that her pension would fall from £11,000 per year to just £6,000.

Strikers are adamant that they will not accept these cuts and they will fight to preserve their pensions.

They have been joined on strike by a small number of UCU members who are also

in the local pension scheme. Other members are currently balloting to join the action.

If Dundee is able to close its pension scheme for low paid staff others will follow.

It's a fight for retirement rights across the sector.

The pay inequalities and out of touch management attitudes have hardened strikers resolve.

While the highest paid slash pensions and award themselves bonuses the lowest paid are expected to survive on low pay and face pension poverty.

Top managers' monthly salary alone is more than twice what strikers will be expected to live on for two years in retirement.

Carlo Morelli, UCU Dundee university branch co-chair

●Donations to: Unison Dundee University 7383 Branch, Sort Code: 60-83-01, Account number: 20033277

●Messages of support to Unison Dundee University Branch on Facebook and DUCU@dundee.ac.uk

COLLEGES

Wave of action over pay and conditions sweeps across ten colleges

by SOPHIE SQUIRE

WORKERS AT colleges in London and Liverpool were set to launch a second wave of strikes from Tuesday or Wednesday this week. They are demanding better pay and conditions, respect at work and manageable workloads.

Bosses have offered a pay increase of just 1 percent, well below the rate of inflation—making it effectively a pay cut.

College workers have had their pay cut by over 30 percent in real terms over the past decade.

UCU union members at ten colleges struck last week. At Croydon college, many of the strikers had only very recently joined the union so that they could be part of the fight.

Activists and strikers from across London joined a spirited protest outside Capital City College

Group (CCCCG) headquarters on Tuesday lunchtime.

Julianne, a striking worker from Westminster Kingsway College, told Socialist Worker, "The highest paid members of staff at my college are paid over £250,000 a year when I'm not on even a seventh of that.

"We did have managers that were alright, but they've been sacked and replaced by ones that are more interested in making profit. They don't care about staff, and they certainly don't care about students."

Julianne pointed to the effects of cuts. "We haven't got the resources to be able to teach to the standard that we would like to. We have broken computers everywhere," she said.

Eileen works at the Enfield campus of the College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London (Conel). She told Socialist Worker



Confident strikers at Croydon College in south London

the lack of resources is a real problem. "You often feel a lot of anxiety walking into a classroom simply because you don't know if the technology is going to work" she said.

Julianne said that an email was sent around to students at her college that presented strikers as "greedy" and "uncommitted to their new students."

Sean Vernell from City and Islington College blasted the move. "It's disgraceful college bosses are doing this" he said.

"But a lot of students recognise it for what it is—an attempt to spread hatred and lies about staff."

Strikes are planned for this week and then for next week from 11-15 October at five colleges. Other colleges are awaiting the result of local ballots to see if members vote for strikes.

●To see which colleges are striking and when go to bit.ly/collegestrikes2021

FOOD

Weetabix strike can beat 'fire and rehire'

by ISABEL RINGROSE

WORKERS AT Weetabix factories in Kettering and Corby in Northamptonshire are still on strike over fire and rehire.

They held a protest outside the main factory in Burton Latimer, Kettering, on Wednesday of last week. Unite union general secretary Sharon Graham joined them.

The workers face changes to their shift and working patterns that would result in some engineers losing as much as £5,000 a year.

Giant

Weetabix's parent company, is Post Holdings Inc, the US cereal giant. Its latest accounts show it had a turnover of £4. billion and an operating profit of £518 million. Its cash reserves are £890 million.

Graham said, "Unite is there to defend the jobs, pay and conditions of its members.

"This is a totally unjustifiable assault on workers' wages and conditions. Last year Weetabix's profits went up by almost 20 percent to more than £81 million.

"Where is the justification



UNITE'S SHARON Graham joined Weetabix strikers last week

PICTURE: UNITE EAST MIDLANDS

for the brutal fire and rehire ultimatum?"

The Weetabix strike is the first big fire and rehire campaign under Graham's leadership. It will be important for Unite to reject any bad proposals from the company and for the strike to stay strong under pressure.

The strike has already caused some production problems for the company, as engineers who fix problems

when the machinery goes down are out.

The best way to win would be to escalate to all-out strikes rather than two days a week.

And it will be crucial for Graham to ensure workers have the resources and confidence to win the dispute.

■OVER 400 workers at the Stanlow oil refinery in Cheshire have voted in favour

of strikes by 98 percent. Unite union members are in dispute over the Essar company's failure to honour a pay agreement and to pay the workers a bonus in 2019-20 and 2020-21.

They're also angry at the proposed closure of the final salary pension scheme.

With the fuel shortages, they could win almost anything they want at the moment.

CIVIL SERVICE

Driving examiners are set to teach bosses a lesson

DRIVING examiners in the PCS union are set to strike on 18 and 19 October over jobs, increased workloads, safety and pay.

In a ballot the 1,100 workers voted 92 percent for strikes on an 82 percent turnout.

As a result of the pandemic a backlog of some 400,000 driving tests has built up over 18 months.

Bosses' response at first was to hire some 200 new examiners, whose terms and conditions are far worse than the existing terms and conditions. And they can be sacked when the backlog is cleared.

They also introduced changes to the HGV driving test.

This included passing some of work to the private

sector, and introducing more HGV tests per day. All of this puts the health safety and wellbeing of PCS members at risk.

Above all management at the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency and government ministers have continued with the same targets they had pre-COVID-19.

As a result of these, bosses want examiners to work eight car tests per day instead of seven.

Road safety is being completely ignored, and all of this is being introduced on top of announcing a pay freeze.

Further action is planned after the initial strikes.

Paul Williams PCS DfT group president and NEC member (pc)

ROYAL PARKS



Determined strikers on Monday

PICTURE: JESS WALSH

Resistance at Royal Parks

OUTSOURCED cleaners working for Royal Parks in central London began a month-long strike on Friday of last week.

The cleaners work for private company Just Ask Services.

They are fighting possible job cuts later this year, and demand the same sick pay, maternity pay, annual leave, and pension entitlement as workers employed

directly. The month-long strike marks an escalation in their battle after a two-week strike in August.

Workers began their strike with a rally in St James' Park on Friday, Royal Parks half marathon on Sunday of this week.

●Donate to the strike fund at bit.ly/donate-royal-parks Messages of support to outsourcedworkers@pcs.org.uk

TRANSPORT

Unions and environment groups reject railway cuts

A COALITION of trade union and environmental organisations is demanding that Scotland's first minister, Nicola Sturgeon scraps proposed cuts to ScotRail services.

The public consultation over Abellio ScotRail's timetable cuts closed over the weekend but campaigners are determined to save all services.

Abellio ScotRail's timetable cuts mean 100,000 train services fewer a year compared to the pre-pandemic timetable.

An open letter says, "With Cop26 just weeks away, it is incomprehensible that ScotRail is proposing to slash services, despite rail being a sustainable and low-carbon form of transport."

ScotRail workers

continue their regular strikes.

Conductors, ticket Examiners and cleaners, who are members of the RMT union, are all involved in separate pay disputes."

■STAGECOACH BUS workers are set to strike over pay on Monday 18 October as part of a national campaign.

RMT union members want "professional wages".

The strike will target depots in Mansfield, Worksop, Chesterfield and Exeter.

It will also hit local sub depots in Barnstaple, Matford, Newton Abbot, Torquay and Paignton.

■EAST Midlands Railway workers in the RMT union are continuing to strike for workplace justice and safety.

TAXIS AND COURIERS

Uber strike for justice

UBER DRIVERS across Britain refused to work for 24 hours on Tuesday of last week in a strike for pay and against unfair dismissals.

Members of the App Drivers and Couriers Union noisily protested in London, Bristol, Birmingham, Nottingham, Sheffield, Manchester, Leeds and Glasgow.

The workers have three demands. They are pay for all working time including waiting time, to end upfront pricing while the firm is raising commission, and an end to unfair dismissals.

Striking driver, Ibrahim told Socialist Worker that typically 40 percent of his day is spent waiting—which is unpaid.

The strike follows a court ruling that forced Uber bosses to pay their drivers while they waited for a new customer. But workers claim Uber hasn't implemented the ruling.

●For the full article online go to bit.ly/Uber0921

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council pay vote coming

THE UNISON union is set to ballot council workers in England and Wales for strikes over pay, after they rejected a below-inflation offer from bosses.

The union had encouraged its members—including care workers, refuse collectors, social workers, street cleaners and teaching assistants—to reject the pay offer of 1.75 percent.

With the RPI rate of inflation closer to 5 percent, this is effectively a pay cut.

It follows more than a decade of similar pay cuts and freezes that mean local authority workers have had a 25 percent pay cut in real terms since 2010.

Strike ballot dates had not been announced as Socialist Worker went to press.

Local government workers across Britain should be fighting alongside NHS workers for the pay rises they deserve after the pandemic.

ROUND-UP

SCAFFOLDERS FOR contractor Actavo Limited working on the British Steel site in Scunthorpe began an all-out strike on Monday in a long running dispute over pay.

The 60 Unite union members began action in 2019. They want workers to be paid in line with the National Agreement for the Engineering Construction Industry (Naeci). The rates for the workforce are currently 10 to 15 percent below these rates.

Workers will picket gates A, D and G from 5.30-9.30am every day.

■SCAFFOLD WORKERS at Altrad at the Mitsubishi Chemicals plant in Billingham, Teesside,

are being balloted for strikes over pay.

■NURSES IN Scotland are to be asked if they'll take industrial action against a below-inflation "pay rise".

Members of the RCN rejected the Scottish government's 4 percent pay offer during the summer.

The union is now organising a consultative ballot to ask what action its members are prepared to take to win a better deal.

■SECURITY GUARDS at Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) are set to ballot for strikes to demand that their jobs are brought in house and for the same benefits as those employed directly by GOSH.

TOP COP MUST GO AFTER NEW INSULT

by ISABEL RINGROSE

SINCE Metropolitan police officer Wayne Couzens was sentenced for the murder of Sarah Everard, cops have given women disgraceful “advice” on how to stay safe.

It comes as another Met officer in the parliamentary and diplomatic protection command—the same as Couzens—was charged with rape.

PC David Carrick was off-duty at the time of the alleged offence on 4 September last year in St. Albans, police said.

After this revelation, Met police chief Cressida Dick must go now.

The powers that were granted to Couzens allowed him to use his police badge to arrest Everard and then to kidnap, rape and murder her.

The Met says that to avoid this happening, women should ask cops for their warrant cards if they're worried about their identities.

For Everard this advice would've made no difference seeing as Couzens



PROTESTERS OUTSIDE the Met headquarters after the murder of Sarah Everard

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

had already shown his. Alternatively, if a woman still has doubts, she is advised to ring the police control room to confirm the officer's identity according to the Met.

But being off-duty won't be enough to raise concerns as police can mark themselves as on-duty to make arrests. Another piece

of advice is that women should consider “shouting out to a passerby, running into a house, knocking on a door or waving a bus down”.

Firstly, this assumes all women are approached on busy roads with plenty of witnesses.

And if the police are here to protect, why should

women have to run away at all?

The reality is that the police and the system they defend are rotten with institutional sexism and so will always pose a threat to women.

When Everard was arrested, witnesses didn't intervene as they assumed

she had done something wrong.

Often, because of the power police have over ordinary people, many don't want to intervene in their business on the streets out of fear.

Those that do challenge an arrest are at best shooed away or at worst arrested

and attacked themselves. North Yorkshire police chief Philip Allott's advice to women was to “be streetwise about when they can be arrested and when they can't be arrested”.

“Knowing your rights” doesn't stop police from assaulting their victims. And telling women to take responsibility lets officers off the hook.

So the Met's response to not deploying plain-clothed officers alone is not enough.

Neither is an independent inquiry or announcing that the vetting process for officers isn't fit for purpose.

It's the police who aren't fit for purpose.

The only way to keep women safe from cops on the streets is to defund the police—a slogan that gained popularity during the Black Lives Matter Movement.

Defunding the police doesn't just mean taking away money from the police and redistributing it to institutions that actually help women.

The slogan has to go further to mean abolishing the police altogether.

Keep blocking roads to protect the planet and defend the right to protest

INSTEAD OF curbing the cops, the Tories are handing them more powers in the police bill going through parliament now.

They are targeting all protests, Gypsy Roma and Traveller people, black people and other groups. But a particular target at the moment is climate protesters.

The Tories look set to bring in six-month prison sentences for activists who block motorways.

It's a direct response to the Insulate Britain protesters.

Home secretary Priti Patel said at the Tory Party

conference that people using “guerrilla tactics” to block roads could also face unlimited fines.

The current fine for obstructing highways is £1,000.

Police will now be given the power to stop and search activists for “lock-on” equipment. This means even carrying a bike lock could result in being arrested.

Despite injunctions, Insulate Britain protesters have continued to blockade motorways.

Boris Johnson also told the Mail on Sunday newspaper that he wanted the “toughest penalties



Insulate Britain protesters

possible for criminals who deliberately bring major roads to a standstill. We will give the police the power they need.”

One key flashpoint will be the Cop26 talks in Glasgow.

Scottish police have issued a warning to Extinction Rebellion that they will not stand for disruptive tactics such as blocking motorways.

But activists have said they have “no choice” but to cause disruption in November in order to force the hands of those in power.

One rebel, Ruth D, said in a radio interview, “As

usual, we're going to be doing some of the things that we're famous for—we will be doing targeted disruption. “Disruption seems to be the only thing that really gets the government's attention because they really, really don't like it. And because we care so much, we are willing to put ourselves on the line and be disruptive.”

That's right, and everyone should stand with those who plan to block roads during Cop 26.

This type of resistance to the Tories' is vital in the fight against the climate crisis and to defend the right to protest.